Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: This issue contains the first installment of Front Page, a feature designed to highlight significant items being published each day. Comments may be directed to FBIS Liaison and Requirements Branch, (703) 733-5840.

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

FRONT PAGE

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Arab-Israeli Talks

Israeli Papers Interview Jordan's al-Majali 3
YEDI'OT AHARONOT *[15 Dec]* 3
HA'ARETZ *[15 Dec]* 4
Rubinstein on First Week of Talks *[Jerusalem Radio]* 7
Netanyahu: UN Vote Might Cast Shadow on Talks *[Jerusalem Radio]* 7
Only Palestinian-Jordanian Team Can Sign Accords *[Jerusalem TV]* 8
Ben-Aharon on First Week of Talks *[Jerusalem TV]* 8
'Abd-al-Shafi on 'Divergent Views' in Delegation *[Jerusalem TV]* 9
On Presence of Haniyah *[Jerusalem TV]* 9
Syria: Effective U.S. Role 'Indispensable' *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 10
Lebanese Chief Negotiator on Talks With Israel *[Beirut Radio]* 10
Lebanese Radio Interviews Israel's Lubrani *[RFL]* 11
Palestinian Delegation Head on Progress of Talks *[London MBC TV]* 12
Other Palestinian Delegates Comment *[Amman TV]* 12
Delegates Evaluate Talks With Israelis *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 16 Dec]* 13
Jordanians, Palestinians on Israeli Plan *[Amman TV]* 13
Jordan's al-Mu'ashshir on Joint Delegation Issue *[PETRA-JNA]* 14

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Chief on Pan Am Bombing, Peace Talks *[MENA]* 14
'Abd-al-Majid Appeals to Somali Warring Factions *[MENA]* 15

Palestinian Affairs

West Bank's al-Husayni Views Talks Process *[London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI 13 Dec]* 15
Paper Sees Israeli 'Retreat' on Self-Government *[AL-QUDS 9 Dec]* 16
Cairo Provides PLO With Camp David Protocols *[AL-NADWAH 29 Nov]* 17
PNSF Leader on Intifadah, Ties With PLO *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 11 Dec]* 17
Palestinians Considering Changing Intifadah Tactics *[Jerusalem International TV]* 18

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Fundamentalists Decide To Participate in Elections *[AFP]* 19
Armed Forces Issues Statement on Guemar Attack *[Algiers Radio]* 19

Egypt

Musa on Talks, Jerusalem Status, Zionism Vote *[MENA]* 19
Musa, Israeli Ambassador Discuss Negotiations *[MENA]* 20

Jordanian-Palestinian-Israeli Meeting Discussed *[MENA]* 20
Musa on ICO, Changes in USSR *[MENA]* 21
Paper Denounces FBI Statement on Abductors *[MENA]* 21
Cairo Reportedly 'Rejects' U.S. Maneuvers *[AL-SHIRA' 9 Dec]* 22
Mubarak, Czechoslovakia's Havel Begin Talks *[MENA]* 22
Havel Praises Talks, Views Issues *[MENA]* 22
Leaders Discuss World, Middle East Events *[MENA]* 22
Writer Urges Public Referendum, Free Elections *[AL-WAFD 6 Dec]* 22

Libya

Foreign Liaison Official: No Nuclear Program *[Tripoli Radio]* 23
Official on Arab Mediation of Lockerbie Crisis *[JANA]* 24

Sudan

Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani Begins Visit 24
Al-Bashir Previews Visit *[Omdurman Radio]* 24
Officials Comment *[Omdurman Radio]* 24
Military Talks Begin *[SUNA]* 24
Al-Bashir, Iranian Defense Minister Confer *[SUNA]* 25
Hashemi-Rafsanjani Arrives 13 Dec *[Omdurman Radio]* 25
Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Al-Bashir Meet *[IRNA]* 25
Hashemi-Rafsanjani Addresses Ra'ly *[Tehran Radio]* 26
Iranian Leader, al-Bashir Address Rally *[Omdurman Radio]* 27
Commercial Agreement Signed 14 Dec *[IRNA]* 27
Iranian Leader Urges Muslim Solidarity *[Omdurman Radio]* 28
Hashemi-Rafsanjani Meets Clerics *[Tehran Radio]* 28
Al-Bashir Hails Iran's Example *[SUNA]* 28
Cooperation Protocols Signed 16 Dec *[Tehran Radio]* 29
'No Military Forces' Sent To Sudan *[IRNA]* 29

Tunisia

Ghannouchi Denies Deportation From Algeria, Sudan *[APS]* 30
President, 'Arafat Discuss Islamic Summit *[Tunis Radio]* 30

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Bahrain

Daily Foresees 'Imminent Coup' in Baghdad *[WAKH]* 31
BNLF Criticizes Deportation of Citizen to Cuba *[INA]* 31

Kuwait

Prime Minister on Gulf Council Meeting *[London AL-MAJALLAH 11-17 Dec]* 31
Palestinians, Jordanians May Qualify as Residents *[AFP]* 33
Kuwaiti Nationality Rescinded From Fatah Official *[KUNA]* 33
Amir Receives Syrian Prime Minister, Delegation *[Kuwait Radio]* 33

Saudi Arabia

Prince 'Abdallah on Talks With Iran's President 33
Meeting Marked by 'Understanding' *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 10 Dec]* 33
'Important Issues' Broached *['UKAZ 10 Dec]* 34

United Arab Emirates

Embassy Activities in Beirut To Resume *[Abu Dhabi Radio]* 34

Republic of Yemen

Salih Interviewed on Gulf Ties, Middle East Talks *[Sanaa Radio]* 34
PFLP Delegation Concludes Visit, Departs 15 Dec *[Sanaa Radio]* 35
Netherlands Grants 50 Million Guilders for Projects *[Sanaa Radio]* 35

IRAQ

Saddam Mocks Reports of Military Coup *[INA]* 36
Editorials React to Speech *[INA]* 39
Coup Reports 'Ridiculed' by Dailies *[INA]* 40
Senior Officers Plotting Coup Reportedly Executed *[Voice of Rebellious Iraq]* 41
Spokesman on UN Report Regarding Iran-Iraq War *[INA]* 41
Iran's 'Media Clamor' Over POW Release Scored *[INA]* 42
UN Team Encounters Protesters During Inspections *[AFP]* 43
Commentary on Syrian Participation at Peace Talks *[Baghdad VOP]* 43
U.S.-Israeli 'Disagreement' at Talks 'Ridiculed' *[INA]* 43
RCC Amends Kurdish Legislative Council Law *[Baghdad Radio]* 44
Barzani on Saudi Proposal for Government-in-Exile *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 44
Clashes Between Regime, Opposition-Kurdish Forces 44
Attack on Regime Forces; Over 43 Captured *[Voice of Rebellious Iraq]* 44
Fighting in Marshlands Reported *[Voice of Rebellious Iraq]* 44
Helicopter Downed in Marshlands Clash *[Voice of Kurdistan]* 45
Population Warned of CW Attack *[Voice of the Iraqi People]* 45
1,123 Kurdish Families Return Home to al-Ta'mim *[INA]* 45
'Izzat Ibrahim Visits Ba'th Party Branches 45
Supervises al-Basrah By-Elections *[Baghdad Radio]* 45
Presides at Maysan By-Elections Conference *[Baghdad Radio]* 46
Trade Minister Meets Friendship Society Official *[INA]* 46
RCC Increases Remuneration of Retired Judges *[Baghdad Radio]* 46
Tank Factory in Baghdad Resumes Operations *[Voice of Kurdistan]* 47
Companies Allocate Food, Cereal Rations *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 11 Dec]* 47
Turkish Truckers Smuggling Oil Across Kurdistan *[AFP]* 47
Transport Minister on Modernizing Railroads *[AL-JUMHURHIYAH 11 Dec]* 48
Study on Building, Enlarging Stadiums Commissioned *[INA]* 49
Cabinet Discusses Facilities for Kuwait Deportees *[INA]* 49
More Citizens Return From Saudi Detention Camps 49
71 Return 13 Dec *[Baghdad Radio]* 49
136 Return 15 Dec *[Baghdad Radio]* 49

ISRAEL

Shamir on Peace Talks, Settlers' Actions in Hebron *[Jerusalem Radio]* 50
Cabinet Briefed on Peace Talks, Other Issues *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 50
Peace Talks 'Most Likely' To Continue in Europe *[Jerusalem Radio]* 50
Levi To Visit UN, Delegations in Washington *[Jerusalem Radio]* 50
Levi Departs; Rejects Prime Minister Candidacy *[Jerusalem Radio]* 51
U.S. Possibly Exploiting Ministers' Disagreements *[Jerusalem Radio]* 51
Prime Minister Shamir—Arabs 'Have Enough Land'
[Munich SUEDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG 14-15 Dec] 51
Commentary on New Pan-Arab Axes at Peace Talks *[AL HAMISHMAR 11 Dec]* 53
Lubrani—UN Head Neglecting Fate of POW Arad *[HADASHOT 15 Dec]* 55
Arens Denounces Settlers' Retaliatory Actions *[Jerusalem Radio]* 56
Settlers Evacuate Silwan House After Court Order *[Jerusalem Radio]* 56
Nighttime Curfew Declared in Ramallah Area *[Jerusalem Radio]* 56
Further on Curfew Details *[Jerusalem Radio]* 56
Settlers Damage Arab Cars in Ramallah 'Rampage' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 56
600 Settlers Join Retaliation Group *[HA'ARETZ 16 Dec]* 56
Policemen Indicted for 'Abusing' Arab Detainees *[Jerusalem Radio]* 57
Trials for Nusaybah, Abu-'Ayyash Opposed *[Jerusalem Radio]* 57
Appeals to Saudis To Grant Pilgrimage Visas *[HADASHOT 16 Dec]* 57

Chief of Staff Baraq on Iraqi Nuclear Threat *[Jerusalem TV]* 57
Reservations on Sale of Patriots to Saudis Noted *[DAVAR 15 Dec]* 58
PRC Said Ready To Establish Economic Ties *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 16 Dec]* 58

JORDAN

Complaint Against 'Desecration' of Mosque Lodged *[Amman TV]* 59
House Discusses Government Policy Statement *[Amman Radio]* 59
House Discussion Continues *[Amman Radio]* 60
Paper Critical of Silence on Israeli 'Arrogance' *[AL-RA'Y 7 Dec]* 61

LEBANON

Israel Reportedly 'Willing' To Discuss South *[Beirut Radio]* 62
Fire Damages AL-SHIRA' Printing Press *[RFL]* 62
Intelligence Team in Beirut To Nab Hostage-Takers *[AFP]* 62
Hizballah To Use Prisoners To Pressure Israel *[VOL]* 62
Al-Musawi Sees Army Officers, Communist Leader *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 62
Resistance Issues Statement on Attack, Arrests *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 62
Lahd To Resign 'When Peace is Established' *[RFL]* 63
Army Occupies Lahd Jazzin Positions *[Beirut Radio]* 63
UNIFIL Speaker Denies Withdrawal From South *[RFL]* 63
Speaker al-Husayni Protests Dumas 'Interference' *[VOL]* 63
France's Dumas Departs; Leaders Comment on Talks *[Beirut Radio]* 64
World Bank Grants Lebanon $700 Million *[VOL]* 64

SYRIA

Further on al-Shar' Interview on Peace Talks *[London MBC TV]* 65
Paper—No Progress 'Worth Noting' at Peace Talks *[Damascus Radio]* 66
Al-Zu'bi Receives DPRK Economics Minister *[Damascus Radio]* 67

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Soviet Weapons Airlift Reportedly Ends *[AFP]* 68
Najibollah Holds News Conference on Peace Process *[Kabul Radio]* 68

India

Further on Visit of PRC Premier Li Peng 75
Rao, Li on Border, Trade, Tibet *[Delhi Radio]* 75
Court Orders Release of Tibetans *[Delhi Radio]* 75
Solanki, Qian on Pakistani Nuclear Role *[Delhi Radio]* 75
Party Delegations Meet Li Peng *[Delhi Radio]* 76
Li on Border, Human Rights, Pakistan *[Delhi TV]* 76
Joint Communique Issued *[Delhi Radio]* 77
Spokesman on Issues Discussed *[ISI]* 77
Li Departs; Rao Comments on Visit *[Delhi Radio]* 79
Commentary Views Outcome of Visit *[Delhi Radio]* 79
Trade Talks Initiated With Soviet Republics *[Delhi Radio]* 80
Government 'Concerned' by Blockade of Iraq *[Delhi Radio]* 80
Finance Official on Foreign Exchange Reserves *[Delhi Radio]* 80

Iran

Resumption of Relations With Morocco Announced *[IRNA]* 80
Hashemi-Rafsanjani Arrives in Sudan on Visit *[IRNA]* 80
Karubbi Comments on Departure for PRC, Yemen *[Tehran TV]* 81
Industry Minister, PRC Counterpart Comment *[Tehran Radio]* 81

Habibi Receives Soviet Azerbaijan Official *[IRNA]* 81
Habibi Wants UN To Implement Resolution 598 *[IRNA]* 82
UN Human Rights Envoy's Visit Criticized *[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 9 Dec]* 82
Majles' Bayat Explains Constitution Article 99
[ABRAR (INTERNATIONAL SUPPLEMENT) 5 Dec] 83
Musavi-Ardebili Leads Friday Prayers *[Tehran Radio]* 83
Islamic World Needs To Attain 'Unity of Views' *[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 9 Dec]* 85
Intifadah Will Shape Palestine's 'Destiny' *[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 7 Dec]* 86
Efforts To Repeal Zionism Resolution Assessed *[IRNA]* 86
'Immature Thinking' of U.S. 'Propaganda' Viewed *[ABRAR 7 Dec]* 87
'Dastardly' FRG Statement on Nuclear Arms Cited *[ABRAR 5 Dec]* 87

Arab-Israeli Talks

The Jordanian chief negotiator gave unprecedented interviews to the Israeli papers YEDI'OT AHARONOT and HA'ARETZ. Jerusalem media interviewed Israeli negotiators on the progress of the talks during the past week. Israeli spokesman Netanyahu said that the gap between the Israeli and Palestinian delegations has "narrowed," but noted that the Arab vote in the upcoming UN Zionism-is-racism resolution "might cast a shadow" on the talks, Jerusalem radio reported. In Israel, meanwhile, Shamir told the cabinet that he hopes the talks on procedure would conclude "this week," and that the delegation would not be broaching substantive issues, Tel Aviv radio reported.

The Syrian spokesperson said an "effective" U.S. role in the talks is "indispensable," Radio Monte Carlo reported. The Lebanese chief negotiator briefed media on his delegation's talks with Israel, Beirut radio reported, while the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported on an interview it held with Israeli negotiator Lubrani.

Libya, Arab League

The country "does not have a nuclear program, and has no need for one," Foreign Liaison secretary al-Bishari told Tripoli radio. JANA reported on an interview al-Bishari gave to the London paper AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT. Meanwhile, Arab League chief 'Abd-al-Majid said that Libya has shown a desire to resolve the Lockerbie bombing charges, MENA reported. Any decision on extradition should be made by Libya, he added.

Israel

The foreign minister departed for New York and denied that he would be running for prime minister against Shamir, Jerusalem radio reported. A radio correspondent said Jerusalem is aware of U.S. efforts to exploit political differences between Shamir and Levi. A hostage negotiator said his colleagues felt "hoodwinked" by both Iran and the United Nations regarding a possible release, HADASHOT affirmed. Settlers evacuated a recently occupied area in Silwan following a court order, Jerusalem radio reported.

Iraq

Speaking to military commanders, Saddam Husayn "derided" Western reports about an expected military coup, INA reported. Meanwhile, the clandestine Voice of Rebellious Iraq claimed that a number of senior Army officers are being executed.

Syria

The foreign minister gave an interview to a London-based Arabic television station in which he discussed the peace process and hostages, among other issues.

Tunisia

Fundamentalist leader Ghannouchi "once again" denied that he had been deported from Algeria, in remarks to the London paper AL-HAYAT and reported by APS.

Algeria

The Islamic Salvation Front has decided to participate in elections set for later this month, AFP reported.

Egypt

An AL-AHRAM editorial criticized a U.S. FBI announcement on pursuing hostage takers in Lebanon, MENA reported. Cairo reportedly rejects a U.S. request for military maneuvers near the Libyan coast, the Beirut paper AL-SHIRA' reported on 9 December.

Jordan

Israel's "desecration" of the al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem was denounced in a letter sent to the United Nations, Amman television reported.

Lebanon

Fire damaged AL-SHIRA' printing presses, according to the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon, which added that copies of the magazine had been confiscated two weeks ago.

India

PRC Premier Li Peng departed after a six-day visit, according to Delhi radio, which also reported on a joint communique. Elsewhere, trade talks began with former Soviet republics, the radio noted.

Afghanistan

A Moscow weapons shipment was halted two weeks ahead of schedule, leading to speculation that this was the last arms delivery to Kabul, AFP reported. A government source had "no confirmation" of the report, the agency added. The president held a media briefing broadcast by Kabul radio.

Iran

Relations were resumed with Morocco, IRNA reported. Hashemi-Rafsanjani began a visit to Sudan, Omdurman radio noted.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Israeli Papers Interview Jordan's al-Majali

YEDI'OT AHARONOT

TA1512095991 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 15 Dec 91 pp 2, 12

[Interview with Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, head of the Jordanian delegation to the Washington talks, by Smadar Peri; place and date not given]

[Text] [Peri] Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, this is the first interview of its kind to an Israeli newspaper. We are finally sitting face-to-face and talking. What made you agree to be interviewed?

[Al-Majali] I gave my consent in principle 10 days ago, but I thought then it would be premature. I did not want to commit myself or mislead the Israeli reader. I wanted to be interviewed only after the delegations left the corridor and entered the rooms. Unfortunately, this has not happened yet, but I think we are on the right track.

[Peri] You sat on a bench in the State Department corridor for three days, conducting "corridor diplomacy" with the heads of the Israeli and Palestinian delegations for many long hours. What did you feel?

[Al-Majali] The truth is that I have no objection to "corridor diplomacy." I merely held contacts with Dr. Eli Rubinstein in front of everyone. We talked with each other, not against each other, and it is a good thing we sat in an open place. If we had shut ourselves in a room, suspicions would have arisen immediately. In all, the three days of "corridor diplomacy" were not wasted.

[Peri] Was this your first meeting with Israelis?

[Al-Majali] I have no fears or reservations about talking to Israelis; I had talked to Israelis before. Two years ago, during a medical convention in Ottawa, I met an Israeli professor from Beersheba University and talked to him and his wife.

If I had been forced to talk to Israelis, however, I would have objected—rather like the child whose parents force him to talk to distant relatives while all he wants to do is run away. You must recall similar situations from your own childhood.

[Peri] When you were appointed head of the Jordanian delegation for negotiations with Israel, how did you feel? What was your response?

[Al-Majali] I was completely calm. It was his Majesty King Husayn who appointed me. I had no problem with it.

Incidentally, the appointment was not a sudden move. We had examined the issue of a peace conference for weeks in a forum called "the political salon," which met in Amman every Monday. The peace issue was one that was mentioned in that forum. From my point of view, therefore, the appointment was not problematic; nor was it a surprise.

[Peri] So you had no fears or reservations about heading the first Jordanian delegation to direct, open negotiations with Israel?

[Al-Majali] None—on the contrary: When I was appointed, I thought to myself that this was an opportunity to tell all the extremists that they are wrong. Here is a tiny crack for peace, and we must squeeze into it. You no doubt know that in our country, too, there are people who cry: "You will get nothing from the Israelis." I can also tell you that over the past 10 days I received many telephone calls from Jordan in which the callers argued: "We told you, you will get nothing from the Israelis. Why are you staying in Washington? Come back home!"

[Peri] What was your reply to them?

[Al-Majali] I told them: Be patient. One must be patient. True, it will not be easy, but I am an optimist by nature.

[Peri] Dr. al-Majali, you are aware there will be difficulties that will be manifest in crises.

[Al-Majali] I am sure there will be crises, but I am also sure progress can be made. Our problems cannot be solved in one session. I very much hope that we will soon see serious signs of action, not only talk, about peace. We must demonstrate seriousness.

[Peri] I suppose you expect seriousness and action from Israel.

[Al-Majali] Certainly. I feel that deep down, the Israelis are afraid of peace and its price. But that is a limited view. The Israelis are afraid they would be asked to give something now. Why did they not bother to compare what they would be asked to give with what they are liable to get in the future?

[Peri] What exactly is Israel required to give for peace?

[Al-Majali] If you recognize the Palestinians' rights, you will immediately win recognition from many countries in the world. That will be voluntary recognition, not by force. Yet I am afraid the Israeli delegation has a psychological problem and that because of it, your people cannot send peace signals.

[Peri] Do you really believe that the Israeli delegation "is not sending" peace signals due to a psychological barrier? Perhaps there are political instructions that are very clearly defined in Jerusalem.

[Al-Majali] I believe the psychological barrier affects the limited range of the political mandate. For many years Israel has talked about peace and prepared for war. The Israelis do not believe the Arabs want peace. Now the Israelis are finding it difficult to reach the "finale" even before the start. This must be understood: The world has changed, and Israel, too, must change. The world today

is not like it was five years ago, after all. Let me tell you: The Arabs are ready for peace with Israel today, and one must think about the implication of peace rather than about a kilometer here or there.

[Peri] Dr. al-Majali, when you—a close adviser to King Husayn—say "peace with Israel," what exactly do you mean?

[Al-Majali] Peace means mutual security, cooperation, the promotion of projects, an end to war, and an end to intrigues. You have something to offer us, and vice versa.

[Peri] We have a lot of experience in peace with Arab countries. Yet peace with Egypt is a cold peace. There is no normalization. There is no daily cooperation. There is no mutual trade.

[Al-Majali] Unfortunately, with Egypt, Israel has tried to break peace into pieces. This is not working. Hence the lack of normalization. An attempt to isolate peace with Jordan or with Syria or with Lebanon will likewise fail. The Egyptians could not open up to full cooperation with you because of their fears of the Arabs. Real peace will be attained between us only if it is comprehensive and if you can offer the Palestinians "a good deal."

[Peri] When you talk about Palestinian rights, do you mean an independent Palestinian state?

[Al-Majali] The Palestinians will decide. They may opt for a confederation with Jordan. No one can dictate to them the nature of the solution.

[Peri] After three days of corridor talks with the head of the Israeli delegation, what is your impression of Dr. Eli Rubinstein?

[Al-Majali] I regret to say that he is very strict, gets into detail. Although I appreciate detail, negotiations should not be conducted only on minutiae and fine print. I presume we will still argue and quarrel over details, but I hope the situation will change.

You no doubt know that at the end of the current round of talks, which according to Israel ends on Tuesday, Israel will demand that the negotiations move to a closer venue.

[Al-Majali] Each time I hear that demand, I think: This is more proof that they do not want peace. If the talks are held in close proximity to our countries, the media will be there and extremists will be able to apply pressure. I will not be able to be relaxed under such circumstances. Those who wish to conduct negotiations calmly must move away.

[Peri] When the negotiations resume tomorrow, what will be the first issue you will raise at the negotiating table?

[Al-Majali] The settlements. The issue triggers in us a state of verbal intifadah. If the Israelis announce their readiness to freeze settlement, we will see that they mean "real business." [previous word in English]

[Peri] You must no doubt have been following us from Amman for many years, reading the papers, watching Israeli television. What kind of image have you formed of us?

[Al-Majali] You keep wanting more and more of what you received, and you are unhappy with what you have. As for the Israeli man in the street—it depends on the kind of education he has. Many Israelis have been brought up on fear of Arabs and hatred for them.

[Peri] Dr. al-Majali, you will no doubt like to take this opportunity to deliver a message to the Israelis through this paper.

[Al-Majali] I would like to say that a man of my age has some experience: We are at the right time and in the best circumstances to achieve peace. It is necessary to march toward peace unhesitatingly, without wavering. Unfortunately, I find 99.9 percent skepticism on your side. One must not be shortsighted. The whole world is following us, including Israel's friends. It is necessary to distinguish talk about peace from acts toward it. We all deserve many years of tranquillity. Give peace a chance. You have a strong army and advanced technology. You have no reason to fear. If peace does not come, a new problem of war will arise, creating an opportunity for those trained in terrorism. We must prefer the peace-lovers to the warmongers.

HA'ARETZ

TA1512133891 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 15 Dec 91 pp A1, A10

["Exclusive" interview with Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, head of the Jordanian delegation to the Washington talks, by 'Aqiva Eldar and Ori Nir, in Washington on 13 December]

[Text] [Question] How do you feel about sitting so many hours on that sofa?

[Al-Majali] It is tiring and the sofa is uncomfortable, but negotiations are negotiations. I am one of those who believe that these three days of talks in the corridor have not been a waste of time. The fact that we are sitting together, overtly, and in public rather than behind a closed door is a great step forward.

[Question] Why did you not let cameras in?

[Al-Majali] I believe the Israelis and the Americans did not want that. We did not mind, but if one side does not want to, then the matter is closed. I think they did not want to show this sight, because some would not understand it. Personally, I said this was the first time that Israelis and Jordanians have sat beside each other on the same sofa. In fact, sitting on the sofa is a million times better than sitting opposite each other. If we sat opposite each other we would speak at each other, but we want to talk to each other. I hope all our deliberations will be conducted in such a way that we sit with, not opposite, each other. We want the talks to be held openly, so that

people have a sense of our delegations standing together in the corridor, telling each other this and that, drinking coffee, and so forth. I believe that this is a great step on its own merit. I think that if we rush and shove things down our throats, we will suffer indigestion.

[Question] Do you not think time could have been put to a better use?

[Al-Majali] Yes, I think so; tell that to the Israelis. To some extent, I definitely believe that, but I think the meetings are quite good on their own merit. Unfortunately, I also know that the Israelis came here to discuss matters of procedure rather than matters of substance.

[Question] But that is not what they are saying.

[Al-Majali] I have plenty of evidence to this effect. I have plenty of evidence that they do not want to discuss real matters of substance.

[Question] You mean that they do not have a mandate to discuss them.

[Al-Majali] Elyaqim Rubinstein keeps reiterating that he has no mandate to discuss one issue or another. In the beginning he said he would be staying only for a short period of time and that he wanted to fly back on Sunday. Later he changed the date to the beginning of this week. Had we met inside the room last Tuesday [10 December], they would have already left this Sunday.

[Question] The Israelis say that you refused even to discuss the venue of the next meeting.

[Al-Majali] We refused to discuss the venue because we are not gypsies who wander from one place to another every other day. We went to Madrid to meet and we tried to discuss with them, with sincere and real intentions, the question of a venue, but we could not reach an agreement. Therefore, the issue should be submitted to the sponsors.

[Question] So, you believe that only the sponsors can decide this matter.

[Al-Majali] We failed to agree because we argued. I think it is a matter of principle. I feel that their insistence that we should move to the region to conduct the bilateral talks will subject us to pressure from the press and others. You know how much weight the oppositionists carry both on your side and ours. There are many oppositionists, and if you are there, so close to them, you will be subject to intense media coverage and to pressure from within. You will be subject to constant pressure, all the time.

[Question] Shamir proposed convening in Lausanne.

[Al-Majali] We did not object. We said Lausanne would be all right, that London, Paris, Madrid, and Oslo would all be fine, but we cannot be in the region. I must feel relaxed if you want me to negotiate. If I am tense and under pressure there can be no negotiations.

[Question] But the media will be everywhere.

[Al-Majali] True, but after a few days of talks media coverage will let up. The media here is different than in Madrid, and the issue will slowly let up unless dramatic developments occur. However, you suggest Cyprus, where security is terrible. Second, there are bound to be leaks because many minor issues will be discussed. Here, the average American in the street is not interested in the whole affair. But in Cyprus or Egypt, or anywhere else in the area, every person in the street will want to know what is happening, and this would soon affect the media and the oppositionists. As you know, even now many people say: You are going to negotiations with the Israelis, but the Israelis never cede anything; you are wasting your time. Well, now they have been proven right, because after 10 days we have not received anything, not even a crumb. Therefore, if we move to the region, the situation will be worse. What we are saying is that if real and tangible progress and evidence is attained that will allow the people to feel more relaxed, the oppositionists will lose their case and something will be seen coming out of it. As far as we are concerned, the negotiations are not a game whereby we hold the meetings once in Elat and once in al-'Aqabah, as they propose.

[Question] Do you understand the Israeli argument that meetings in the region would legitimize Israel as a country in the Middle East?

[Al-Majali] I understand that, but this would be the finale of the whole thing; this would come at the end. These deliberations will end in the same results attained at the end of the discussions with Egypt. These deliberations will culminate in real peace, recognition, and openness. I think the Israelis are too shortsighted. In the long run, when they recognize the Palestinians and their problem is solved, you will have attained the recognition of the entire Arab world, the Muslim world, and the Third World. You will see open markets. You know what the Israelis are capable of. Here, in the United States, you are a small minority yet you exert a great deal of influence. The same holds true for our region. Once the door is cracked open, the influence will be enormous. Therefore, one must look ahead, add up all these small things, until an achievement is attained at the end of the road.

[Question] Do you perceive what is taking place now in Washington as direct negotiations or as a continuation of the international conference?

[Al-Majali] We are conducting direct negotiations under the umbrella of the international conference, which still exists. You must refer to something, you cannot leave things hanging in the air, especially when there is no balance of power between the sides.

[Question] Do you believe progress can be made without the help of the United States, the United Nations, or somebody else?

[Al-Majali] I hope, I wish, and I insist that we can. But if we cannot, then as I told Rubinstein on Wednesday: We

have been speaking for two or three days. Let us go speak to the sponsors who have friendlier relations with you than with the Arab side; you cannot deny that. Perhaps the Americans will be able to find a solution. If I have a dispute with you and we cannot reach an agreement, a third party may find a bridge which will be neither on my side nor on yours. We, the Arabs, believe that the United States is always on your side, and history bears this out in 99 percent of the cases.

[Question] But you have to find a compromise both with the Israelis and the Palestinians.

[Al-Majali] When Rubinstein pressed me to sit with him on the sofa, I told him: Listen, I have more trouble dealing with the Palestinians than dealing with you because with them there are more details involved, particularly with regard to issues which will affect us if what we are talking about is a confederation in the future. So, please, do not push me. Nevertheless, there is no way I will negotiate on their behalf.

[Question] Even though you say you share vital interests with them.

[Al-Majali] I share vital interests with them, but I will not speak on their behalf. Jordan has already paid more than enough. My cousin, Khazn'i al-Majali, tried to negotiate on their behalf and died because of it. So did King 'Abdallah and Safi al-Tall. I do not want to be killed because of it. Look, these are the people affected by the issue, so let them solve it themselves. If I cede even half a centimeter I will be seen a traitor to the Palestinian cause to the end of my life. I do not want to do that. Let them negotiate and whatever they agree will be it. I will discuss matters related to education, health, currency, customs duties, and other issues. We are willing to do that; we are willing to undertake another headache. (al-Majali laughs)

[Question] Is it not artificial to say that there are separate Palestinian and Jordanian issues and that there are no issues to be discuss in a tripartite Israeli-Jordanian-Palestinian framework?

[Al-Majali] Rubinstein was asked whether he would like to have a forum of the three heads of delegations, but he rejected the idea. He would not discuss it.

[Question] So the solution will be to set up some kind of steering committee.

[Al-Majali] No, we provided the umbrella. It was Israel, not us, that insisted on two tracks of negotiations. The Israelis insisted on two tracks, but we never accepted it. The Israelis insisted on having an Israeli-Arab track and an Israeli-Palestinian track; in fact, the word Jordan was not mentioned at all. So why bring us in at all? Jordan agreed to provide an umbrella to make it clear that there is a 100-percent whole and absolutely independent Palestinian element. Back in Madrid Rubinstein asked me to agree to talk about an Israeli-Palestinian track and an Israeli-Jordanian track. He has now changed his mind.

[Question] If so, what solution do you perceive?

[Al-Majali] The solution is that one must be logical. It is quite simple to me. I am not a dogmatic person. In my mind's eye I see the invitation, which mentions two tracks. There is a joint delegation, but Rubinstein believes the question of the venue of the talks cannot be discussed separately. I asked him why all of us, all the delegations, should not sit together and discuss the venue until we reach an agreement. You Israelis are always fearful that the Arabs will coordinate their positions. At the same time, you want us to be together with the Palestinians. You want one thing, but you do not want another. In my opinion, this approach is wrong. I think peace cannot be attained piecemeal, peace must be comprehensive. Peace in the region must be attained with the Syrians, the Palestinians, the Jordanians, and the Lebanese. You tried it with one country, a big country, but it did not work out. If we make separate peace with Israel, it would not be peace; it would only be a portion of peace.

[Question] How do you feel about the fact that the Syrians and the Lebanese have already begun to make progress in their deliberations with the Israeli delegation?

[Al-Majali] They have not. There has only been talk about talk without any results. We have also been talking, but both we and they have not yet attained anything.

[Question] What do you talk about all that time you sit on the sofa? Are you conducting negotiations only, or do you also discuss other things?

[Al-Majali] We talk quite a lot about other things. Rubinstein knows many jokes and witticisms in Yiddish, but not in Arabic. (al-Majali laughs)

[Question] A member of the Palestinian delegation said that Rubinstein occasionally says: Shamir will kill me if I agree to this particular point.

[Al-Majali] Yes, he told me: "You are talking to a dead man, I will lose my job." We know about such things; it is just talk. I am not a youngster who is impressed by such statements.

[Question] Is that what you want?

[Al-Majali] Sometimes, it seems to me that is what Rubinstein wants. It is awful.

[Question] How often do you consult with Amman?

[Al-Majali] They must be kept in the picture.

[Question] Do you speak to King Husayn himself occasionally?

[Al-Majali] I speak to everybody. After all, I am his representative here, and he asked me to come here.

Rubinstein on First Week of Talks

TA1512070491 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 15 Dec 91

[Telephone interview with Elyaqim Rubinstein, head of the Israeli delegation to talks with the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, by political correspondent Arye Golan in Washington and anchorman Shalom Qital in Jerusalem—live]

[Text] [Golan] It is now a few minutes after midnight here. Did you have any contacts with the Palestinian delegates earlier today? Has a meeting been set between you, Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, and 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali for Sunday?

[Rubinstein] We are constantly holding diplomatic contacts. For our part, we definitely want to hold meetings. I do not know yet whether such meetings will be held, but we want to hold them.

[Qital] Mr. Rubinstein, all sorts of assessments and evaluations were made regarding last week's corridor talks. Perhaps you could give us your own assessment now that the first week is over. How would you sum up the corridor talks so far?

[Rubinstein] First of all, their physical location is not so important. It makes no difference whether the talks are held on a sofa or elsewhere; what matters is whether there is a good ending to this affair. We had serious negotiations. We would certainly like the procedural difficulties to end soon, but those are part of any negotiating process. In any event, we have tried very hard and left no stone unturned in our efforts to have the negotiations started, while we uphold the positions—which must be upheld—entailed in the government's policy. We hope the latest proposals we submitted at the end of a day of discussions on Thursday evening will be accepted by the Jordanian-Palestinian side.

I would like to emphasize that the procedural difficulties are not trivial. We must maintain the rules set for the entire process; in other words, we will talk to a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation while recognizing that the negotiations will be held on two tracks: a bilateral Israeli-Jordanian one, and another dealing with the interim arrangements concerning the Arabs of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip.

[Qital] In interviews with Israeli papers published today, Dr. al-Majali, head of the Jordanian delegation, says the corridor talks have helped bring the people closer. At the same time, he accuses the Israeli delegation—or the Israeli Government in general—of fearing peace. What do you think about those two statements?

[Rubinstein] I am willing to agree with his first statement, that the talks have been helpful, because we made an effort, exchanged papers, and held numerous talks. I do not know if he said that, because he did not say as much to me.

I think that anybody familiar with the Israeli Government's positions, which we have been upholding here, will definitely and wholeheartedly agree that we tried to get this process going. I would also like to stress that all the initiatives, actions, and attempts to bring the positions closer and to make contact came primarily from our side. Having said that, I would not like to comment on the positions and statements of the other side; each side is entitled to its own positions. I would only like to say that we have been trying very hard to do a serious job, while upholding our positions.

[Golan] Judging from your many contacts with the Palestinian side, particularly with Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, do you feel there are elements on the other side that are actually interested in preventing any progress?

[Rubinstein] I do not think it is my job to dwell on the statements of the other side and its positions. That is the job of researchers and press commentators. I can only say that it is clear to everybody that this will be a lengthy and arduous negotiating process, and that a breakthrough cannot be attained within a few days. You may recall international negotiations that did not involve Israel; I once mentioned the negotiations between the United States and Vietnam, which for many months dwelt on the shape of the table. We are only a few days into our negotiations.

I would like to point out that the other sides have their own inhibitions. Nevertheless, we have been abiding strictly and fairly by the rules set on the eve of this process, and we expect the other sides to proceed likewise. If they do, there should be no real problem in starting the negotiations this week—in a room, not in the corridor—with the joint delegation on the issues pertaining to it, and moving on to two tracks to discuss other issues. There is no contradiction between the two.

[Golan] You say this week, but the question is how long will Israel agree to negotiate here, in Washington. One or two rounds were mentioned at one time, but some delegations have met many more times than that already.

[Rubinstein] We will be here the first days of this week, and we will exhaust this move as much as we can. One of the issues we will have to discuss with the other sides is the venue and date of the next round of talks and the channels of communication between us prior to it.

Netanyahu: UN Vote Might Cast Shadow on Talks

TA1612072091 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 16 Dec 91

[Text] Deputy Minister Binyamin Netanyahu said this morning that the gap between the Israeli and the Palestinian delegation has narrowed. Speaking to Qol Yisra'el, he expressed the hope that what he called the corridor stage will end as early as today.

Netanyahu believes that today's UN General Assembly debate on the resolution equating Zionism with racism

might cast a shadow on the Washington negotiations. The Arabs do not intend to support the repeal of the resolution and, as far as we are concerned, there is a contradiction here: On the one hand, they claim they are willing to make peace with Israel, while on the other hand, they consider us racists.

Only Palestinian-Jordanian Team Can Sign Accords

TA1412200991 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 14 Dec 91

[Text] The Israeli and Arab delegations are using the weekend to rest and to discuss the latest proposals the Israelis have handed the Palestinians. Our correspondent has learned that, in its latest proposal, Israel says that although the main discussions will be through separate teams, the teams will not be able to sign any agreements, which will have to be brought to the plenum of the joint committee with the Jordanians and the Palestinians. Also not agreed upon is the number of participants in the separate teams. Israel is interested in keeping the number low, while the Palestinians want to increase it.

Ben-Aharon on First Week of Talks

TA1312190391 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 13 Dec 91

[Interview with Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office and head of the negotiating team with Syria, by Shlomo Ganor, in Washington on 13 December—recorded, in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] [Ganor] Mr. Ben-Aharon, what is the situation after a week of discussions?

[Ben-Aharon] I believe we have gone some, although not a long, distance, because the very fact that we are sitting together and encouraging each other, learning each other's strengths and weaknesses, has a positive influence on the continuation of the talks. When you know you are treading needlessly on toes you take one step back and then go on. In that way, one team is able to make moves with the other until we reach some common ground.

[Ben-Aharon] Let us speak about each team separately. First, your working group with the Syrians.

[Ben-Aharon] I was surprised, but the Syrian representative, who is known as a tough person who represents a tough regime, recalled some point of agreement, on some aspects of Resolution 242, which for him was almost the Ten Commandments. We want to build on that statement by him, on which there is some level of agreement, and then progress to see whether on the basis of 242—which for him represents everything—we can develop several other points of agreement until we reach the first chapter and sum it up in a joint document.

[Ganor] What about Lebanon?

[Ben-Aharon] Lebanon is under Syrian occupation, and I constantly have the feeling that they are waiting for instructions. They are, however, nice people, and so are their representatives. I hear from my colleagues that on a personal level there is much more openness and attempts to understand each other, although there is also a feeling that when serious issues are discussed the obstacles are very large.

[Ganor] On the other hand, the Israeli and Jordanian-Palestinian delegations are sitting on the couch compared to the talks being conducted between the other two delegations. What is delaying the opening of the practical talks with the Palestinian-Jordanian delegation?

[Ben-Aharon] There is a problem of reducing the euphoria into which the Palestinians have brought themselves. They believed that as a result of all sorts of concessions made to them by the Americans in Madrid that they were already on the path to their own state. That is the reason for the arrangements for a joint delegation, but not so together—14 members in each delegation, two cochairmen, and all that. Now they have to return to the practical format in which we started the process, and the United states adopted—in other words, a joint delegation which deals with autonomy and self-government. Until that stage is reached an educational, psychological process is needed, and that is what is happening in the corridor.

[Ganor] Could the Israeli compromise proposal be accepted by the Palestinians?

[Ben-Aharon] I believe that sooner or later it will because they are in an inferior position, they want to make progress. For our part, there is no time pressure. They have the feeling that they are under time pressure.

[Ganor] Mr. Ben-Aharon, has Washington proved itself a good place to host the talks?

[Ben-Aharon] No, I believe the contrary: Washington is making progress difficult because once again there is the problem of exaggerated expectations. The Arabs have deluded themselves into thinking that the fact that we do not want Washington comes from a fear of pressure through U.S. involvement. That is not correct. We do not want U.S. involvement or intervention, but we are not afraid. We can say no to the Americans, just as we did early in the game.

[Ganor] In that case, will Israel remain firm in its demand to move the talks from Washington to the region?

[Ban-Aharon] There is no doubt about that. That is the prime minister's stand, and I am sure that we will continue to insist on that.

[Ganor] That means that next week's round is in fact the end of the Washington stage.

[Ben-Aharon] I do not want to decide that because it depends on a decision by the government or the prime minister, but there was one round in Madrid, another

this week in Washington, and there will be a third round. This time we have to start returning to the region and talk with neighbors, who are our geographic neighbors, and stop playing on the international stage.

'Abd-al-Shafi on 'Divergent Views' in Delegation

TA1612081791 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 14 Dec 91

[Interview with Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian side of the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, by Shlomo Ganor in Washington; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Ganor] Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi, there have been reports or rumors about the existence of differences among members of the Palestinian delegation, a dispute between the various currents, over how to manage the talks. What is the truth?

['Abd-al-Shafi] As head of the delegation, I can tell you that there are no fundamental differences. Of course, there are different views. We will try to adopt the right course from among these divergent views. This is only natural. I believe that any reports on fundamental differences within the Palestinian delegation or the joint delegation are baseless.

[Ganor] Israel insists on transferring the talks from Washington to the Middle East. What is your position?

['Abd-al-Shafi] Our position is that considering that we are in Washington now, we should remain here until a positive change occurs or progress is made. Afterward, one can look into the issue of moving to another location. At present, I do not see any justification for transferring the venue.

[Ganor] Let us go back to the talks. In the event that, for example, it becomes clear that the talks with you are making quick progress while, God forbid, the talks with Syria are facing obstacles, what will the Palestinian position be?

['Abd-al-Shafi] I believe that the Palestinian problem is the core of the conflict in the region. I do not think that there will be progress in the Palestinian-Israeli talks and a lag in the Syrian-Israeli talks.

[Ganor] Is there a linkage?

['Abd-al-Shafi] Naturally, there is.

[Ganor] When you returned from Madrid, the Palestinian delegation was greeted by popular celebrations. We remember that you asked the masses to be patient. What is your message to them now, this evening, from Washington?

['Abd-al-Shafi] I reiterate that they should remain patient. The road is still long and difficult, but I see no call for pessimism. I consistently wish to be optimistic, and I hope that this optimism will be justified.

[Ganor] What are the reasons for this optimism?

['Abd-al-Shafi] I believe that if human beings desire truth and adhere to it, the road will lead to good things. This calls for optimism.

[Ganor] Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi, thank you.

['Abd-al-Shafi] Thanks.

On Presence of Haniyah

TA1412200591 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 14 Dec 91

[Interview with Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation, by Ehud Ya'ari in Washington; date not given—recorded, in English]

[Text] [Ya'ari] Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi, what is exactly the role of the PLO representatives like Akram Haniyah, who are sitting here at your hotel in Washington? Do they have an impact on the course of negotiations?

['Abd-al-Shafi] Akram Haniyah is in the position like other advisers who are with us, with the Palestinian delegation, and he participates as much as other advisers are participating.

[Ya'ari] Would you say that he is calling the shots?

['Abd-al-Shafi] I don't think so, not at all.

[Ya'ari] As to the present problem of defining the two tracks and the status of the joint delegation, do you accept the Israeli proposal that the joint delegation can be called into session by one of the parties anytime?

['Abd-al-Shafi] I must tell you that we are very flexible on these matters; we want to be practical. I think the rule of the joint delegation in these negotiations by necessity is limited because there are two tracks, the Palestinian-Israeli track and the Israeli-Arab track—that is to say, the Israeli-Jordanian track. As such, it is very easy to define the issues between these two tracks, and that leaves very narrow margins for the joint delegation to deal with. That, really, in my opinion are procedural matters.

[Ya'ari] Do you think that from your sofa talks, the couch talks, with Mr. Rubinstein, do you gain the impression that the Israelis are businessmen, that they are serious, that they mean to do business?

['Abd-al-Shafi] Well, I don't like to think that they are otherwise, but certainly I can't understand this position with respect to this matter, and I certainly will want to finally conclude that the Israeli delegation is adopting delaying tactics in this manner. I say things very straightforward, and I hope that by Monday we can settle this issue and get started on substantive issues.

Syria: Effective U.S. Role 'Indispensable'

JN1312175991 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Dec 91

[Hisham Milhim report from Washington]

[Text] Lebanese-Israeli and Syrian-Israeli negotiations have been suspended until Monday morning, amid indications that negotiations between Jordan and Palestine, on the one hand, and Israel on the other, might also begin on the same day. This is particularly indicated by Israel's acceptance of the principle of negotiations on the basis of a Palestinian-Israeli track and a Jordanian-Israeli track.

Informal contacts among the chiefs of the three delegations are expected to continue. The Palestinian delegation will reply today to the proposal made by the Israeli delegation on 11 December with regard to the structure of the negotiations. It is also possible that the chief delegates will meet on Sunday. If a final understanding is reached, then negotiations might (?resume) on Monday.

Syrian-Israeli negotiations remain deadlocked because of the Israeli refusal to accept the principle of land for peace. Syrian spokeswoman Bushra Kanafani told Radio Monte Carlo that the outcome of the past three days was not at all positive. Israel wants to talk about everything except withdrawal from the occupied territories, including the Golan, she said. Commenting on future prospects, she added: The image is not bright now and there is no cause for optimism, but we are still at the beginning of the road. The Syrian spokeswoman said that the peace process can never lead to the desired results without the intervention of the cosponsors of the conference, especially the United Sates, and that an effective U.S. role is indispensable.

Miss Kanafani reiterated Syria's stance on the need to continue negotiations in Washington and not to conduct discussions elsewhere. Commenting on Israel's decision to recall its delegations sometime next week, she said: If the Israelis want to return before the second round of talks yields any results, this is up to them.

With regard to the possibility of suspending talks indefinitely, the Syrian spokeswoman said: I do not have any reason to say that this (?might happen). We want these negotiations to continue and to be supported by everyone who thinks that peace is a basic demand in the region and in the world, particularly the United States, the creator of this process.

Lebanese Chief Negotiator on Talks With Israel

CM1512140691 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Dec 91

[News conference by Ambassador Suhayl Shammas, Foreign Ministry secretary general and head of the delegation to bilateral talks, with unidentified Lebanese and Arab correspondents, at the Lebanese ambassador's residence in Washington on 14 December—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] Mr. Secretary General, the Israelis are talking openly about a demand to sign a peace treaty between Lebanon and Israel that will include (?understanding) about security arrangements. Your position following the last meeting was at least clear that this is out of the question, except as part of a general and comprehensive peace in the region. Can you comment further on this position?

[Shammas] First, the request to discuss a treaty at this stage—whether this issue was raised or not—is like placing the cart before the horse. As we understand it, when this issue is raised we respond that the peace conference has established clear objectives: to achieve comprehensive, just, and permanent peace. When the negotiations reach the point of establishing the actual and necessary basis to achieve the sublime objective that has been proposed to the delegation—that is, a comprehensive, just, and permanent peace—then the legal formulas to express it, whether they are treaties, agreements, or some other legal document, will crown the situation. In our view, any such Israeli proposal is tantamount to an early agreement on what is expected to take place through direct bilateral negotiations. As we know, such a peace agreement can be achieved if the bilateral negotiations reach early success, or nearly certain success, and then we move on to the stage of multilateral negotiations. In light of these negotiations, one can see how to crown such success. Therefore, when such an issue is raised, the Lebanese position is clear. We always return to our basic proposal, which is implementation of Resolution 425 via the mechanism clearly detailed in UN Security Council Resolution 426. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] How did Israel respond to Lebanon's proposal regarding withdrawal?

[Shammas] We have raised a specific issue. There is no agenda for these talks. The basic issue that is raised is what concerns Lebanon. We said we are prepared to receive any possible responses in this regard. The nature of the dialogue demands that we listen. We respond as necessary to any proposal that does not reflect the actual state of affairs. Therefore, any matter raised by the Israeli delegation that we think is inconsistent with implementation of Resolution 425 via its defined mechanism of implementation will be like releasing balloons. If there are reasonable proposals, we will consider them. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Mr. Secretary General, [word indistinct] that Lebanon is refusing to conclude a treaty with Israel along the lines of the 17 May agreement. We would like to know what specific points Israel raised in the draft proposal for negotiations with you.

[Shammas] First, there is no draft proposal by Israel. Second, your question is linked to a number of suppositions. During the talks and discussions held so far, we have explained to the Israeli delegation that we no longer regard the 17 May treaty, either in its form or substance, as valid. The Israeli delegation understood this. [passage omitted]

What is important is for everyone to understand that Lebanon is committed, when Israel withdraws from the internationally recognized Lebanese borders, to shoulder fully its responsibilities to maintain security, stability, and calm along its international borders. This is the situation [words indistinct].

[Correspondent] You have held about eight or nine hours of direct face-to-face talks with the Israelis. If you were to describe the extent of progress made in these talks, what percentage would you give?

[Shammas] Perhaps it was a little longer than this. I do not make calculations regarding progress, lack of progress, or stalemates. The calculations my delegation and I make concern the points that have been finally or almost finally defined, which we do not need to deal with again except to confirm them as the negotiations demand. For example, Israel has affirmed what it said in Madrid, that it has no ambitions or plans in or against Lebanese territory. It said this time that it does not covet a single drop of Lebanese water. When we asked the Israeli delegation to reaffirm this, they did. We recorded the word [word indistinct], because in our understanding, this has a special meaning. It means that Israel is telling us frankly that it has no designs on the al-Litani River. Detailed discussion takes place on other concepts that crop up. We will leave these until the time comes. A radio interview is not the venue for discussing these issues. The Israeli delegation also affirmed to us that the establishment of a strong central government will facilitate the demand for Israeli withdrawal, because a strong central government can impose, through its army, complete sovereignty over all its territory.

What I want to say is that we are aware of our mission and are sure of our national aspirations and the guidance we have received from senior officials on various levels. What concerns us, in this context, is to explore with the Israeli interlocutors the seriousness of Israel's readiness to withdraw from Lebanon. [passage omitted]

Lebanese Radio Interviews Israel's Lubrani

NC1412122791 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 14 Dec 91

[Michel al-Haj report from Washington]

[Excerpts] As part of our continuing efforts to report to you on the bilateral talks in Washington, Radio Free Lebanon [RFL] has held two interviews with Bushrah Kanafani, spokeswoman for the Syrian delegation; and Uri Lubrani, head of the Israeli sub-delegation for bilateral talks with the Lebanese delegation. [passage omitted]

Regarding the bilateral talks between Lebanon and Israel, Uri Lubrani told RFL that he knows very well the circumstances and restrictions any Lebanese delegation is suffering from in December 1991. Despite all that, there is some joint interest on which we need to negotiate. He added that he did not expect outstanding results from the talks, but at least today, he added, we find ourselves on the correct path. He described the four meetings he held with the Lebanese delegation as ones of mutual investigation.

Lubrani said he believes all issues should be discussed within the framework of a peace treaty, whereas, according to him, the Lebanese delegation wants to move the talks in a direction that might create greater difficulties than the ones we are currently facing.

This is where the gap between our stands lies. For this reason, we need to work together to bridge it. He added: The Lebanese delegation is entrusted by its government to participate in these negotiations; therefore, we need to assess the flexibility of the Lebanese side when it comes to making decisions to reach agreement. Otherwise, these negotiations could go on endlessly.

He added that Israel has no designs on Lebanese waters or territory. Lubrani defined his delegation's sole mission as peace. He pointed out that there are many obstacles to this peace, such as the presence of non-Lebanese troops on Lebanese territories, including the Israeli Army. He added that all these forces have to leave Lebanon to give it absolute freedom to make its decisions.

He continued that his country tried before to establish peace with Lebanon through the 17 May treaty and the attempt failed, but not because of Lebanon. Lubrani also affirmed that these bilateral talks have no relation to the 17 May agreement, but the objective remains the same: peace or a peace treaty.

On this week's talks, Lubrani said that they have not yet achieved much, but the attempt by both sides to get to know each other is itself important. If I wish to evaluate these talks from the point of view of content, then I would say they are of no value. We have to give ourselves time and be patient.

Lubrani denied that the two parties have discussed the Jazzin issue. He pointed out that Lebanese delegation head Suhayl Shammas announced that peace is the objective and that Israel has to withdraw without postponing implementation of Security Council Resolution 425. Lubrani commented on this proposal, saying that it would worsen the situation. He added: What the Israeli delegation wishes to explain to its Lebanese counterpart is that Israel does not wish to participate in creating a situation that would force it to resort to military force.

Lubrani said that during the talks he discussed Hizballah, the party currently present near Israeli borders that follows orders from Tehran and does not care about Lebanese Government decisions. He pointed out that the Lebanese delegation described the Hizballah armed men as freedom fighters. This is when an embarrassing silence fell over the meeting, Lubrani added.

Lubrani explained his country's priorities, citing examples of the situation in northern Israel since 1985, where not a single Israeli citizen has died. Therefore, he added, our major concern is to maintain this situation. Israel

does not wish to carry out any action that might destroy this balance in the status quo.

He continued his statement by expressing his country's desire to change the current arrangements whereby the Israeli military and a local Lebanese force keep the peace in Lebanon to one of permanent stability. He added that there are those who believe the Lebanese Army, as it stands now with its preparedness and way of deployment, is capable of performing this task. But we do not believe so, he said.

As for next week's meetings, Lubrani said: On Monday, we will try to agree on some kind of agenda to transform this process into one of dynamic action. He also described the peace treaty Israel seeks to establish with Lebanon as one that leads first and foremost to resolving all disputes and obstacles and primarily provides security, in addition to organizing relations between the two countries.

Lubrani concluded by announcing that he informed his Lebanese counterpart of the basic elements of the peace treaty as Israel sees it. These points have not been discussed yet. He hoped the Lebanese delegation would in turn inform him of their concept of a peace treaty.

Palestinian Delegation Head on Progress of Talks

NC1312192191 London MBC Television in Arabic 1805 GMT 13 Dec 91

[Interview with Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the Washington talks, by unidentified MBC correspondent in Washington; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] We are pleased to have you here, Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian negotiations delegation. Welcome.

['Abd-al-Shafi] Thank you.

[Correspondent] Doctor, how far have you gone in your talks with the Israelis, and is a compromise solution possible regarding the independent Palestinian representation which will discuss the Palestinian dimension?

['Abd-al-Shafi] We still are at the point of holding negotiations with the Israeli delegation as an independent Palestinian delegation within the framework of the joint delegation. Our stand is clear on this issue based on the principle of two tracks—the Palestinian-Israeli and the Israeli-Jordanian. At any rate, the Palestinian-Israeli track takes priority and will be responsible for the talks. Through this channel there is a Palestinian delegation with symbolic Jordanian participation.

This is our understanding of the issue. Also, this is important so we can reiterate the independent Palestinian identity. The problem lies in Israel's rejection of this principle. Israel wants to negotiate with the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. This is unacceptable to us because it is not practical. There will be complications in the negotiating process instead of facilitation. Moreover, we will not accept allowing our Palestinian identity to be obliterated. This stand of ours does not obstruct the negotiations issue, but rather facilitates the process. Therefore, the Israeli stand is obstructing any achievement in negotiations over the vital issues. This is our stand, and I believe it is a clear-cut one, and the Israeli delegation shoulders the responsibility for the obstacles.

[Correspondent] Doctor, if the Israelis insist on their intransigent stand, what will be your reaction?

['Abd-al-Shafi] We just cannot be flexible when it comes to our Palestinian identity. We do not oppose, however, the joint delegation principle. There will be some procedural matters which we will discuss with the Israeli delegation within the framework of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. I hope this is clear. We do not oppose the fact that we are part of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. But we insist on our independent position in holding negotiations regarding the Palestinian-Israeli problems.

[Correspondent] A date for the multilateral talks has been set by the sponsoring countries at a time when the bilateral talks have made no progress. What is your explanation of this, will you participate in these talks, and do you have any conditions?

['Abd-al-Shafi] I believe the first meeting of the multilateral conference will discuss preliminary and procedural matters and will not discuss vital, pending issues.

Other Palestinian Delegates Comment

JN1412215991 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 14 Dec 91

[Excerpt] The heads of the Jordanian and Palestinian sides of the joint delegation are expected to meet the head of the Israeli delegation in Washington tomorrow. The meeting will discuss an Israeli proposal on how to hold talks with the two sides of the delegation. Israel has refused to hold separate negotiations with Jordanian and Palestinian delegations to avoid recognizing the Palestinians as a distinct entity. Both the Jordanian and Palestinian delegations insisted that they should be given equal status and a separate identity. Tomorrow's talks will precede the resumption of negotiations expected to begin in Washington on Monday [16 December]. This report from Washington looks at the latest situation:

[Begin recording] [Maha al-Sha'ir, station reporter] The Jordanians and Palestinians are still studying the Israeli proposal to break the deadlock over independent Palestinian representation.

[Jordanian delegation member Fayiz al-Tarawinah] We have been exchanging proposals and counterproposals. On Thursday evening, they gave us a counterproposal for the proposal we gave. We did not have the chance to

discuss it with them, because it was late. So, we have been looking into this proposal, and we will give them our answer.

[Al-Sha'ir] What does it say?

[Al-Tarawinah] Well, it practically takes us back to square one, where they have the same insistence on the joint meetings in parallel with the [word indistinct].

[Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, chief Palestinian negotiator] When you divide the issues, there are Jordanian-Israeli issues, and there are Palestinian-Israeli issues. And so, we think that there should be a predominantly Palestinian delegation to deal with the Palestinian-Israeli track, with symbolic representation of the Jordanians in this delegation. And also this serves to affirm the Palestinian identity, which is a very important matter for us. And of course this does not detract from the fact that we are part of a joint delegation, Jordanian-Palestinian.

[Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan 'Ashrawi] You see, well, what Israel wanted to do was to transform the two-track approach into an approach of subcommittees, and therefore, relegating the Palestinians to the role of a subcommittee. That is why I said very clearly we are not a subcommittee, we are a people with a national identity. Nor are we these people [video shows 'Ashrawi forming quotation marks with her fingers as she says the preceding two words], because they kept calling us these people, as if mentioning the name Palestinian people is something...

[Al-Sha'ir, interrupting] But he [not further identified] calls you my Palestinian friends.

['Ashrawi, laughing] Well, he may think he has some Palestinian friends, but this is not an exercise in winning friends and influencing people. These are serious political negotiations with serious political implications for any pseudo-technical start. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Delegates Evaluate Talks With Israelis

JN1612090191 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 16 Dec 91 pp 1, 17

[SAWT AL-SHA'B report from Washington]

[Excerpt] The bilateral Arab-Israeli talks will resume at the U.S. State Department in Washington today, Monday.

Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation, has said that the Palestinian position regarding the beginning of negotiations with the Israeli delegation has not changed, and that the Palestinians are still determined to begin the negotiations with the Israeli side in the form stipulated in the text of the letter of invitation, which stipulate that the negotiations take place on two tracks; first, on a Jordanian-Israeli track to discuss issues related to Jordan; and second, on a Palestinian-Israeli track to discuss the transitional phase of the occupied territories.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi explained to SAWT AL-SHA'B that through their lack of commitment to the letter of invitation and their insistence on merging and not separating the members of both the Jordanian and Palestinian delegations and their different issues, the Israelis are trying to undermine the Palestinian people's rights, something which the Palestinian negotiators will not submit to and the Jordanian negotiators will not accept.

One of the Jordanian negotiators revealed to SAWT AL-SHA'B that during a meeting they held yesterday, the Jordanian and Palestinian delegations agreed to try to reach a new formula for the proposals they had earlier presented to the Israeli delegation, and that this formula will be presented today during their talks with the Israelis. He said that this new formula will not change the basic concept included in the letter of invitation, which provides that the talks be held along two tracks; a Jordanian-Israeli track, and a Palestinian-Israeli track.

The Jordanian negotiator, who wished to remain anonymous, pointed out that the Israeli negotiators try to play with words and create fallacies, something which conflicts with the arrangements agreed on in Madrid, and reflects Israel's lack of serious desire for peace unless it is in accordance with its conditions and the gains it made from the imbalance of power in its favor. [passage omitted]

Jordanians, Palestinians on Israeli Plan

JN1512194691 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 15 Dec 91

['Abdallah al-'Utum report from Washington]

[Excerpt] Following a three-day suspension, talks between the Jordanian-Palestinian and Israeli delegations will resume at the U.S. State Department tomorrow, Monday.

A joint committee from the Jordanian and Palestinian delegations met to prepare a counterproposal to the third Israeli proposal made at the end of last week. On the basis of the three proposals made by the Israelis, it seems that Israel is still seeking to limit the Palestinian role. The Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, however, insists that the Palestinian component is an independent party to the negotiations and that it is responsible for negotiating with Israel about Palestinian issues.

Although some improvements have been introduced into the Israeli proposals made in Washington—such as agreeing to hold the talks on two tracks, a Jordanian-Israeli one and a Palestinian-Israeli one, where issues related to each track will be discussed within that track—the Israelis, at the same time, are trying to hold joint meetings with the three negotiating parties. They demand that the three negotiating sides should meet at the request of any side without giving any reasons for such a request. The joint Jordanian- Palestinian delegation, however, insists that a joint meeting should be convened only to discuss procedural issues, such as the date and time for meetings and the working procedures.

It also insists that such meetings should be convened only with the approval of the three sides, and that the basic issues should be discussed on the basis of the two separate tracks.

If the two parties agree on this issue, the heads of the three sides are expected to hold a meeting to approve the final formula for the procedural arrangement and then to hold meetings for each track.

[Begin recording] [Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi] Indeed it was a procedural issue. But for us, it was as important as any basic issue because it concerns the Palestinian delegation's independence at the talks in the Palestinian-Israeli track. We are part of the joint delegation, the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, and we do not deny this fact. But since there are two tracks—a Palestinian-Israeli track to discuss Palestinian-Israeli problems and another, Jordanian-Israeli track—then, to make things easier, there should be a Palestinian delegation to discuss the problems relating to the Palestinian- Israeli track and a Jordanian one to discuss Jordanian-Israeli problems. Taken from another angle, this separation confirms the Palestinian identity and this is an important thing for us. This, however, does not change the fact that we are part of a joint delegation, a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

[Fayiz al-Tarawinah, member of the Jordanian delegation] The issue of the two tracks is not procedural as Israel tries to show. It is a matter of principle, concerning the independence of Palestinian decisionmaking and the Palestinians' right to discuss issues of concern to them, just like the case with the Jordanian side and the Jordanian agenda. By trying to combine the two, or to talk about a joint meeting to discuss topics on the agenda, Israel is trying to combine the two agendas into a single one and shuffle the cards. This is what the Jordanians and Palestinians are demanding; namely, that a joint meeting should convene to discuss procedural issues and not the topics on the agenda. Consequently, we reached the scenarios now being discussed. We are trying to bridge this gap by stressing this point, which is not procedural at all but a matter of principle. This was clear in the letters of assurances and also in the letter of invitation, which was given to the Jordanians and to the Palestinians. This is also what was reached during the Madrid talks. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Jordan's al-Mu'ashshir on Joint Delegation Issue

JN1512112791 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 0935 GMT 15 Dec 91

[Text] Washington, 15 Dec (PETRA)—Dr. Marwan al-Mu'ashshir, media spokesman of the Jordanian delegation, has said that the Israeli side still insists on giving the joint delegation greater powers than stipulated in the U.S. letters of invitation and assurances.

In a statement to JNA, he said: From the beginning, we agreed to give a Jordanian-Palestinian umbrella to the Palestinian delegation to enable it to attend the negotiations. This umbrella, however, does not— under any circumstance—mean that the Jordanian side would discuss issues related to the West Bank and Gaza on behalf of the Palestinian side, or negotiate on their behalf.

He said: We insist that the Palestinian delegation discusses Palestinian issues with Jordanian participation to give the color of the joint delegation, rather than to negotiate on behalf of the Palestinians.

Dr. al-Mu'ashshir added: The task of the joint delegation is procedural. In other words, the joint delegation will discuss procedural matters, or any matters agreed on jointly. The Israeli side, however, insists on giving the joint delegation the power to discuss joint issues related to the two sides, which we do not accept. The Jordanian and the Palestinian sides insist on discussing issues on a bilateral basis along two tracks, and leaving procedural issues to the joint delegation.

He also said: Progress was made on this issue after lengthy talks. The Israeli side accepted the idea of two tracks, although from the beginning it had rejected it and wanted the meetings to be held within the framework of the joint delegation. However, there is still disagreement on the extent of significance and power that should be granted to the joint delegation.

Replying to a question on what has been published to the effect that the Israeli proposal sets the number of members in each delegation, Dr. al-Mu'ashshir said: The number of members has not been discussed in detail, although several suggestions have been presented. It is left up to the Jordanian and Palestinian delegations to decide the number of Palestinian members to take part in the Jordanian side, and the number of Jordanian members to take part in the Palestinian side. The Israeli side, however, insists on a much larger number than we decided to give the color of the joint delegation.

He also said: The number of members from each side in the negotiating delegation is still 14. This, however, does not mean that all meetings will be held in the presence of all delegation members. Meetings could be held in the presence of say 10 or 7 members.

Dr. al-Mu'ashshir added that the next session will be held tomorrow, Monday. During this session, the heads of the three delegations will discuss, in the lobby of the U.S. State Department, resolving the problem related to the two tracks. If a solution is reached, all members of the three delegations will go to the meeting hall.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Chief on Pan Am Bombing, Peace Talks

NC1412152191 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1420 GMT 14 Dec 91

[Excerpts] Paris, 14 Dec (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Arab League secretary general, has emphasized

that the Arab League and Libya denounce terrorism and every action which endangers the lives of innocent civilians.

In an interview with the Paris-based AL-SHARQ radio, which broadcasts in Arabic, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that what happened to the U.S. and French airliners that crashed in 1988 and 1989 is a matter that must be condemned, affirming that such actions are rejected by every country, particularly the Arab countries.

In his interview, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that Libya has adopted stands demonstrating the desire to resolve the problem with the United States, France, and Britain based on international law. He pointed out that the Arab League General Secretariat issued a statement on 17 November calling on all sides to exercise self-restraint.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid added: We were eager to ensure that no measures will be taken that will exacerbate tension in the Middle East at a time when the region is assuming the peace process, an important stage for the region's future.

In the interview, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid pointed out that the Arab League Council issued a decision during its meeting on 5 December. The council asserted Libya's desire to work out a peaceful resolution of the issue of the U.S. and French airliners. He said that the council proposed forming an international committee, made up of UN and Arab League officials, to disclose facts concerning the two incidents.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid noted that this exhibits the rationalism voiced by the Libyan Government. He said that exchanges in this regard are taking place. The Arab League secretary general said: I know that there is a request for the extradition of the two Libyans accused of being involved in the issue. This is a decision that should be made by Libya, he added. Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said: I believe that there is no treaty of extradition between Libya and the countries requesting it, especially Britain. The issue has no legal basis, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said. [passage omitted]

Alluding to the Arab-Israeli peace talks in Washington, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that the talks' stages are necessary to establish a complete peace. The first stage in Madrid was devoted to opening the door for negotiations; and then the second stage, the stage of the current Arab-Israeli bilateral talks. Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid added: We know that the Arab and Israeli sides have different views. He urged Israel to respond to the Arab delegations' desire for peace.

'Abd-al-Majid Appeals to Somali Warring Factions

NC1512163691 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1442 GMT 15 Dec 91

[Text] Cairo, 15 Dec (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid appealed to the warring factions in Somalia to settle their differences, contain their battles, and manage Somalia's internal affairs with concern for the people.

In today's appeal to Somalia's warring factions, after he met the assistant secretaries general charged with following events there, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that the Somali people are suffering epidemics and famine while more people are killed or wounded in battles between the factions. He stressed the need to maintain Somalia's unity and marshal all efforts for the good of its fraternal people.

Palestinian Affairs

West Bank's al-Husayni Views Talks Process

PM1612142791 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 13 Dec 91 p 5

[Unattributed interview with Faysal al-Husayni, prominent Palestinian West Bank figure, in Jerusalem; date not given]

[Excerpt] [introductory passage omitted] AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI interviewed Faysal al-Husayni and asked him about the Israeli delegation's refusal to negotiate separately with the Palestinian delegation. He replied: The Jordanian-Palestinian delegation is two delegations, between which there is coordination. Through the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and on the basis of coordination between us, we send the members whom we choose, and Israel has no right to interfere in that matter.

[AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI] And what about what Netanyahu said?

[Al-Husayni] That is what he wants, and what he wants should not necessarily happen. We are going to negotiations not because they are designed to implement Israeli wishes, but to arrive at a solution that is based primarily on international legitimacy. [Al-Husayni ends]

On the U.S. position, which appears to be supportive of the Israeli position, he said: We have not yet reached a conclusion.

On Tutwiler's statement that the Palestinians went to Washington within a joint delegation—which reflects support for the Israeli position—he said: Of course we went there on that basis, but we can organize our internal affairs as we like. We can, for example, tell the Israelis that this is one delegation, but they have no right to interfere in how we compose the group meeting to discuss each subject.

That is if they regard us as one delegation. If they do not regard us as one delegation, but two delegations instead, then we should meet separately with the Israelis.

[AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI] The logic raised by the Israelis is unreasonable and unacceptable. They want us to be two delegations and one delegation at the same time. Does the U.S. letter of assurance provide a solution to this question?

[Al-Husayni] It is clear from the U.S. letter of assurances that there are two delegations, between which there is

coordination. And correspondence is addressed to the Jordanian official and the Palestinian official separately and on an equal footing. Not once has a single letter been sent to us and the Jordanians as one side. The Palestinian delegation has been dealt with on the basis of independence, even though it is within a joint delegation.

[AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI] The assurances letter and the invitation letters spoke about two lines: one Arab-Israeli and another Palestinian-Israeli. Does the second line include a Palestinian-Jordanian-Israeli line?

[Al-Husayni] No, the reference was only to a Palestinian-Israeli line?

[AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI] So that contains the answer?

[Al-Husayni] Yes.

[AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI] Are there contacts with the Americans over that question?

[Al-Husayni] Of course; a complete job is being done in that regard.

[AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI] Do you expect the matter to be settled in a short period of time?

[Al-Husayni] Yes, God willing.

[AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI] As far as the Palestinians are concerned, is that question procedural or fundamental, especially since the Israelis say it is a fundamental and not a procedural issue?

[Al-Husayni] The Israelis are trying by every means to avoid moving to the fundamental issues. This is why they are mixing up the chief and basic things. We said a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation for the sake of coordination. There are only some interlinked issues between us and Jordan. There is an agreement in principle to establish a confederation. But there are issues which can only be discussed on a purely Jordanian basis, and issues which can only be discussed on a purely Palestinian basis.

[AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI] In the course of the Palestinian delegation's formation we accepted Israeli conditions that direct PLO participation and Jerusalem representatives should be excluded. Can the Israeli position on that question be accepted?

[Al-Husayni] The PLO has not been excluded, nor do we accept that it be excluded. It has played a fundamental role, but not a visible one. And I believe that it is unnecessary for us to accept the Israeli position. It is a procedural issue that concerns the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, not Israel. And our view is that these Israeli attempts, which are aimed at blackmailing us by threatening to leave the room, must stop.

There remains the need to emphasize that citizens do not look at that question—the subject of disagreement—as a procedural issue, but as a principal and fundamental issue on which the direction and future of the negotiation could depend. Thus there should be no abandonment of or laxity toward the national Palestinian dimension, because it represents the basis that can never be subject to bargaining. It was on the basis of respect for that "dimension" that the majority supported and backed Palestinian participation in the peace process. And there is no alternative but to accept the Palestinian side as a side representing the Palestinian national identity and entitled to express it and speak on behalf of Palestinians in the bilateral and other negotiations.

Paper Sees Israeli 'Retreat' on Self-Government

TA1012203491 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 9 Dec 91 p 7

[Editorial: "The U.S. Proposals and the Israeli Rejection"]

[Text] The reports that said the United States has presented proposals aimed at paving the way for the success of the bilateral Arab-Israeli talks that are expected to begin tomorrow in Washington coincided with the announcement in Israel that the Israeli negotiating delegations will confine the negotiations meeting or meetings in Washington to the discussion of procedural issues or perhaps some substantive issues, while all the substantive issues will be discussed later in the Middle East region. These reports also coincided with the statement in Israel that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir had issued instructions to Elyaqim Rubinstein, head of the negotiating team with the joint Jordanian- Palestinian delegation, to draw up a new draft agreement on points relating to self-government over which Israel had reached agreement with Egypt in 1982. This represents a retreat from some points over which Israel had agreed in the past, including the transfer of local police affairs to the Palestinians. This is being rejected by Israel now under the pretext that "developments during the last decade, including the intifadah, require the introduction of new elements in the Israeli position" regarding self-government.

On the eve of the resumption of the bilateral talks in Washington, Israeli news media also reported Israel's refusal to negotiate with two independent delegations, a Jordanian and a Palestinian. These media also carried statements by official authorities in which they affirmed Israel's unpreparedness to make any territorial concessions in the Golan Heights.

The U.S. proposals under reference called on the Arab and Palestinian sides to agree on some procedural issues which Israel wishes to be discussed in Washington "even if discussion of some substantive issues is postponed." The proposals also noted that Washington will not interfere in setting the agenda of the talks or their evolution. This was affirmed by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker yesterday when he said that the resumption of the negotiations depends, foremost of all, on the desire of the parties in the conflict to engage in talks and that the United States had provided the venue for the talks as of 4 December.

The new U.S. proposals are fundamentally different from those that Washington had presented to the various parties

and to which the invitations for holding the talks in Washington on 4 December were attached. Those proposals were rejected by Israel, for Yosi Ben-Aharon, the director general of the Israeli prime minister's office, stated last week that Israel's objection to the U.S. proposals was the reason for not going to Washington last Wednesday.

The continuation of the Israeli rejection and the new U.S. proposals, which represent a retreat from the previous proposals that mentioned discussion of substantive issues in the Washington talks, arouse a number of questions. The new U.S. proposals come very close to the Israeli demands, especially since they were made after Israel publicly rejected the previous proposals and refused to go to Washington on 4 December. Moreover, the official Israeli position has not only remained the same as far as the substantive and procedural issues of the peace process are concerned, but this position is becoming more rigid as the date of the talks approaches. In light of what Washington is proposing and what Israel wants, is it possible to achieve fundamental progress toward peace? And is "the desire of the parties" adequate to bring about such progress, especially since Baker is aware that the Israeli Government would not have agreed to take part in the peace process and go to Madrid had the matter only depended on its "desire"?

We believe that success of the bilateral talks requires, above all, a desire to make a real, just, and comprehensive peace based on the foundations and resolutions of international legitimacy, as well as the active and effective participation of the international community and the cosponsors of the peace conference in the peace process, including the formulation of clear stances toward those who reject real peace. Otherwise, the results of current efforts will not differ significantly from those made over the long previous years to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Cairo Provides PLO With Camp David Protocols

TA031217049 Jerusalem AL-NADWAH in Arabic 29 Nov 91 pp 1, 11

[Exclusive report]

[Excerpt] Cairo—AL-NADWAH has learned from a reliable source that, upon an official Palestinian request to the Egyptians, the Egyptian Government has provided the PLO with the files and protocols of the autonomy talks based on the Camp David agreement.

AL-NADWAH has learned that the Egyptians have acquainted Mahmud 'Abbas and Dr. Nabil Sha'th with the content of those protocols to assist the PLO's intensive preparations for the bilateral negotiations in Washington. [passage omitted]

PNSF Leader on Intifadah, Ties With PLO

PM1512200991 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 11 Dec 91 p 6

[Unattributed report: "Khalid al-Fahum Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: The Intifadah Came To Defend Arab Honor and It Will Continue Until It Achieves Its Objectives"]

[Text] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT bureau—Palestinian National Salvation Front [PNSF] leader Khalid al-Fahum has emphasized in Damascus that the intifadah in the occupied Arab territories enters its fifth year very firmly, strongly, and resolutely and will continue until it achieves its objectives.

In a telephone interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT's bureau in Amman, he said: The intifadah expresses the position of our Palestinian people inside [the occupied territories] rejecting the Israeli occupation of the Arab territories, and nobody can make their decisions for them.

He added: The intifadah will continue to defend Palestinian rights and Arab honor. We therefore hope for an Arab stance of support and aid for it.

On the peace conference and the start of the Arab-Israeli negotiations in Washington, al-Fahum said: We should not be too optimistic. We have a long way to go. I do not believe that peace will be achieved within months. It basically depends on U.S. firmness against the Israeli attempts to undermine the peace efforts.

Al-Fahum urged the Arab and Muslim leaders meeting in the Senegalese capital Dakar to adopt a unified stand in support of the Palestinian cause and all other Arab causes because such a stand would effectively help the Arab negotiators.

In reply to a question about the Israeli position on the peace conference, al-Fahum said that Israel was doing its best to foil the peace conference because it does not believe the conference to be in its interest. Israel, he added, is clinging to the territory, does not accept the land-for-peace principle, and is placing one obstacle after another in the way of the peace process. The best proof of that, he said, was its rejection of 4 December, the date suggested by the United States for the start of the Arab-israeli negotiations, and insistence on 9 December. That attitude, he continued, confirmed to the world that Israel did not want the peace conference to succeed.

He added: That now calls for a unified Arab stance and more efforts to expose the real Israeli position and make world public opinion, the United States, and Europe understand that, contrary to Israeli claims, Israel does not safeguard but rather seeks to strike at U.S. interests in the Middle East.

On the third phase of Arab-Israeli negotiations, he said it will cover many issues, including the refugees, water, disarmament, and the environment in the Middle East.

He added that 40 states will participate in that phase, including 17 Arab states, that is, all the Arab states with the exception of Iraq, Somalia, Libya, Djibouti, and the PLO.

He also said: We hope the PLO or representatives from Jerusalem or the Palestinian diaspora will be invited, because the question of the refugees concerns the Palestinians inside and in the diaspora. I say this because the Palestinian part of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation does not include anyone from the camps in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Al-Fahum confirmed that there is now tangible improvement in relations between the PLO leadership and Syria. He told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the purpose of the improvement was coordination between the two sides on the peace conference, and that Syria was determined not to participate in the third phase unless tangible progress is made on the question of Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories. He also said that the PLO should not participate in the next phase before the settlement process comes to a halt and withdrawal from territories in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip begins.

He added: We in the PNSF support coordination with the Syrian brothers as well as coordination among all the Arab parties.

On the question of the transfer of the PLO offices from Tunis to Damascus, al-Fahum said: There is one PLO office in Damascus. That office was never closed. As regards the transfer of the PLO departments, I believe that is premature and I do not expect it to happen in the near future.

On PLO-PNSF relations, al-Fahum confirmed that he met with 'Arafat more than once during the latter's visits to Damascus and that the talks between them focused on Palestinian struggle, the intifadah, the peace process risks, and Israeli arrogance and refusal to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories.

Al-Fahum denied reports published earlier about Syria's refusal to receive [Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command Secretary General] Ahmad Jibril. Ahmad Jibril, he said, is in Syria, enjoys full freedom, and has good relations with the Syrian brothers.

Palestinians Considering Changing Intifadah Tactics

TA0412195091 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 4 Dec 91

[Text] Shops and businesses in most towns in the West Bank and Gaza Strip were open today, despite the call made by factions opposed to the peace process—that is, The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine—for a general strike to protest the convocation of the bilateral talks in Washington.

Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that activists of the Palestinian leadership in the territories are conducting intensive consultations over the idea of altering the intifadah into a so-called peaceful struggle, stopping the violence, and using various methods such as festivals, sit-ins, and marches. The Palestinian leadership in the territories is also discussing the idea of stopping strikes as a means of protest, in view of the economic damage strikes do to the population.

Algeria

Fundamentalists Decide To Participate in Elections

AU1412202491 Paris AFP in English 1923 GMT 14 Dec 91

[Text] Algiers, Dec 14 (AFP)—The fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) announced Saturday [14 December] that it would file candidates in Algeria's first multi-party elections due later this month. The announcement was made after a long meeting of the Majlis el-Shura, the supreme FIS body, where supporters of an election boycott clashed with the movement's pro-election wing. The FIS earlier presented lists of candidates in Algeria's 430 constituencies.

More than 40 parties have said they will take part in general elections whose first round will be held on December 26.

Armed Forces Issues Statement on Guemar Attack

LD1512090291 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 15 Dec 91

[Text] The national gendarmerie command stated to APS yesterday that colossal efforts by the (Army's) special units and by investigators belonging to the National People's Army and the national gendarmerie have led to very positive results. They have helped to determine the organizational structure of the armed group which attacked the border guard post at Guemar, as well as the identity of its members who directly or indirectly took part in that attack.

The sources added that the units in their operations had been able to recover all weapons captured by the armed group in the early hours of Friday morning, 29 November, except for one semiautomatic weapon which is thought to be in the hands of the so-called Tayeb el-Afghani, who has disappeared since the attack on the Guemar post.

Egypt

Musa on Talks, Jerusalem Status, Zionism Vote

NC1412150691 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1245 GMT 14 Dec 91

[Text] London, 14 Dec (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa stressed that Egyptian diplomacy is not seeking to weaken the position of the PLO and does not want to interfere in drawing up Palestinian policy.

In an interview published today by the Lebanese paper AL-AHYAH following the conclusion of the Islamic summit in Dakar, Musa said in reply to a question on the removal of the word "al-jihad" from the summit's final communique: We believe that support for the peace process cannot be mentioned in one clause and then have another clause that contradicts it completely. He added: If we want to give the peace process its full opportunity, boastful words do not help and do not bring results. Negotiations are now under way in Washington and we must give them the necessary impetus. This is why we wanted to remove the contradiction that was in the first draft of the Dakar communique. We agree in principle on the Palestinian people's rights, self-determination, the PLO role, Jerusalem, the settlements, and the Golan.

Minister Musa then said: We also agree that it is possible, even necessary, to achieve these principles through negotiations. As to "the issue of al-jihad", it was part of the Mecca declaration that was issued 10 years ago. It is one of the principles present in religion when the need for it arises. But we have not yet reached a stage of complete despair about retrieving the occupied territories and the Palestinian people's rights that we have to speak of this issue. He added: We do not understand how can we support the peace process and call for jihad at the same time. It is either this or that. Removing the word "al-jihad" does not cancel the Mecca declaration. It exists but there is no need for us to underline it and we should not use such expressions at the present time.

'Amr Musa said that Yasir 'Arafat explained that "al-jihad" does not mean military jihad only. What is meant is that there should be an impetus [zakhm] toward the liberation of Palestine and retrieving the territories and rights. He did not in fact necessarily mean military action. Therefore, we must respect his view even though it was not supported. I do not believe that the exchange of views at the conference will affect the peace process. A resolution against the peace process could have had an effect, but what happened was the opposite.

The foreign minister then stressed: Egyptian diplomacy has no intention of weakening the PLO. On the contrary, we are talking with the PLO at the highest and all levels. Our diplomacy has no plans to draw up Palestinian policy because the Palestinians have their views on choosing their leadership and have the right to do so. We never work against the PLO but work to obtain the Palestinian people's rights.

On the Egyptian position on Jerusalem, 'Amr Musa said: Since 1950, Egypt has been saying that Jerusalem should be one entity and a unified capital, whether it is the capital of either of the two entities or states. He added: We are opposed to having Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and, in the same way, we cannot say that Jerusalem, with its western part, is the capital of the state of Palestine, which has not yet been established. What matters is that we should not work in dreams. There is a Palestinian hope that Jerusalem will become the capital of their state. We support this but it must be properly brought about and accurately expressed.

In reply to a question about the Islamic summit's move toward moderation, 'Amr Musa said: We are in the age of moderation and reason and not the age of extremism. Developing countries [words indistinct] toward reason

and pragmatism. Expressions and slogans cannot be eaten or imbibed and will not restore a right.

Regarding the differences over the venue for the resumption of negotiations between the Arab delegations and Israel, 'Amr Musa said that the important thing is the stability of the talks in one place so they do not move from one place to another. He added: It is still too early to hold negotiations in the Middle East. But when progress is achieved or hopes of reaching a settlement increase, this will provide the mutual goodwill that would allow the move to the region.

On Israel's intransigence, 'Amr Musa said: Israeli intransigence is detested and condemned. We can never agree with Israel on it. But removing this intransigence or reducing it is not brought about through a declaration of jihad after the first session of negotiations is held. If we accept negotiations, then we must continue with them. If we do not accept them, then we should not enter into the negotiations process in the first place. But to enter [word indistinct] in the negotiations and then despair after one or two sessions, I say no.

The foreign minister said: Israel's intransigence could be regarded as a negotiating stand. We in Egypt have held rounds and rounds of negotiations with Israel and its stand has been more intransigent in the past than it is now. Despite this, we succeeded after a time in narrowing the differences until we achieved the complete liberation of Sinai.

On the U.S. endeavor to repeal the UN resolution equating Zionism with racial discrimination, 'Amr Musa stressed that the repeal will satisfy Israel but the important thing is that it should not take this repeal and pocket it and then demand other measures without offering anything itself.

He stressed that Egypt links the repeal of the resolution to respect for the Palestinian people's rights and to the elimination of any laws or practices based on discrimination against the Palestinian people.

On the present crisis between Libya and the United States, the foreign minister ruled out a military strike against Libya. He expressed hope that force would not be used, noting that Egypt's stand is based on this and that it is doing all it can to resolve the crisis. He added that Egypt welcomes the measures taken by Libya within the framework of condemning terrorism and of interrogating the accused and sees positive steps in these measures.

Musa, Israeli Ambassador Discuss Negotiations

NC1512131991 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1220 GMT 15 Dec 91

[Text] Cairo, 15 Dec (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met today with Efrayim Dowek, Israeli ambassador to Egypt.

After the meeting, the Israeli ambassador said they discussed developments in the Middle East. He said they also talked about the direct bilateral Arab-Israeli talks currently taking place in Washington.

The Israeli ambassador expressed his belief that it is possible to overcome the obstacles and problems confronting the Washington negotiations.

He said, however, that finding the final solutions requires more time than just one session.

The Israeli ambassador said that Religious Affairs Minister Avner Sciaki will visit Egypt 17 December in response to an invitation from Dr. Butrus Ghali, the new UN secretary general.

He said that the Israeli minister will hold numerous meetings with Egyptian officials.

Jordanian-Palestinian-Israeli Meeting Discussed

NC1512072391 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2210 GMT 14 Dec 91

[Text] Cairo, 14 Dec (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, adviser to Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat, left Cairo this evening for Tunis, where he will join a working team led by 'Arafat to discuss the latest developments in the Washington talks, which will resume 15 December [as received].

In a predeparture statement, Sha'th stated that an exceptional meeting will be held 15 December among the chiefs of the Jordanian-Palestinian and Israeli delegations, particularly since Israel is willing to hold negotiations with an independent Palestinian delegation under certain conditions. He added that it is important to have an independent Palestinian delegation, which was agreed upon during the Madrid conference and in the U.S. letter of assurances. He said this is not a procedural matter, but a matter of principle.

He expressed his belief that there is hope the current negotiations in Washington will succeed, even in a limited way, and at least the procedural problems will be overcome so that negotiations can move to such important issues as settlements and autonomy. He noted that the Israelis tried to obstruct the negotiations by staying away from them for four days and then claiming that an independent Palestinian delegation does not exist, although in the joint declaration in Madrid they stated that the Palestinian track will take precedence, which is included in the U.S. letter of assurances.

He described the U.S. endeavors to rescind the resolution equating Zionism with racism as strange, since Israel is applying racial discrimination systems against the Palestinians, who are imprisoned without trial and without specifying their term of imprisonment. In the meantime, Israeli Jews are not touched and the maximum prison sentence they get if they commit a crime against any Arab citizen is two years. Sha'th added: We laud the role played by Egypt in agreeing with the United States to delay a decision on this resolution for one year [as received].

Regarding the seizure by some Jews of some homes in the village of Silwan, Sha'th said this is a serious matter. Israel, he added, is not satisfied with seizing Arab territories to build settlements, but it is also seizing Palestinian homes with the support of the Israeli Army and Jewish extremists.

Musa on ICO, Changes in USSR

NC1412131291 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0945 GMT 14 Dec 91

[Text] Cairo, 14 Dec (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met President Husni Mubarak this morning. Following the meeting, Musa said that he briefed the president on his talks and consultations with European and Islamic countries, the outcome of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO], the situation in the Soviet Union, and the recent developments in Europe following the Maastricht summit.

Musa said that the rapid pace of changes in the Soviet Union necessitates daily follow-up, particularly in light of the strong and varied political, economic, and commercial ties we have with this part of the world. He also referred to the special cultural ties linking Egypt with the Islamic republics of the former Soviet Union.

Musa said that it is clear now that the Soviet Union as we have known it for the past 70 years has ceased to exist, that a new situation is evolving, and that the process of change has not yet been exhausted.

The foreign minister said that the current union is among independent republics that conduct relations in a new framework that is not communist and is not based on the previous ideological ideas and economic axioms; it is a framework inspired by the principles of independence and economic freedom and principles related to the external orientation of other countries, either within the EC or the Islamic world.

Musa said that the changes in the Soviet Union are very important and require follow-up. He also noted the need to follow up developments in Europe.

Concerning the situation in the Soviet Union and Egypt's views on the new changes in the map of the world, the foreign minister said that the changes in the Soviet Union are clearly a result of the national and free choices of the republics and must therefore be respected. He added: We have to understand that the Soviet Union as we knew it has disappeared. Our task is to find out what will replace it: Will the same republics form a new state? Or will some or a few of these republics do that? What links will these republics maintain?

Musa said: We can compare the situation in the Soviet Union to relations among European countries. EC countries are independent states that are linked by economic and political treaties. The British Commonwealth also includes independent countries linked by economic and cultural agreements. Will this be the situation in the Soviet Union? Will there be an individual state or independent countries? It is a matter that requires follow-up, Musa said.

Musa added: What we should all understand is that the Soviet Union as we knew it ended with the signing of the tripartite commonwealth agreement by Russia, the Ukraine, and Belarus, a commonwealth that other Soviet republics have begun joining.

Asked to comment on reports of differences at the ICO summit, Musa said: There were differences in opinion and thinking. The differences among Arab countries as well as between Arab and Islamic countries were clear. There is nothing dangerous about differences of opinion. They occur frequently. Some people maintained that the position of Islamic countries on various issues should remain unchanged, while others, including us, said that we have to keep up with the changes in our world. That was the difference of opinion between us and a number of the attending delegations. Our opinion was endorsed by the conference's resolutions, for the latter adopted a new approach to the issues of our times, in the sense of supporting the peace process, condemning terror, etc. Therefore, I believe that the outcome of the ICO summit was very good.

Asked if there are plans for an Egyptian-Jordanian summit, Musa said that no arrangements for such a summit have been made.

Concerning the peace process in Washington, Musa said: This is an ongoing process. The talks in Washington have opened and everyone should expect to hear reports about very big crises, deadlocks, and breakdown of talks. This is what happens when negotiations take place, but the process is continuing. There is no crisis facing the peace process.

Paper Denounces FBI Statement on Abductors

NC1612065491 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0615 GMT 16 Dec 91

[Text] Cairo, 16 Dec (MENA)—AL-AHRAM denounces an FBI statement announcing that hostage-takers in Lebanon will be chased, arrested, and brought to trial before the U.S. judiciary.

In its editorial today, AL-AHRAM writes that abductions and kidnappings go back to 1984, which means that the files are enormous. The quest for abductors is bound to inflict considerable harm on the situation currently prevailing in the region and on the position of the states to which the abductors belong. Moreover, such a chase is bound to trigger a new round of reprisals, and God knows what they will lead to this time.

The paper calls on the concerned Western countries to realize that terrorist operations, which are internationally denounced and condemned, have political roots, even if they are prompted by desperation or the desire to bargain.

In conclusion, the paper urges opening a new chapter of tolerance and forgiveness instead of indulging in chase

operations. The paper emphasizes that the proper approach to this is to act together to establish rights.

Cairo Reportedly 'Rejects' U.S. Maneuvers

NC1612085791 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 9 Dec 91 p 12

[Text] Egyptian President Husni Mubarak has notified the U.S. Administration through a high-ranking official—who left for the United States a few days ago in the wake of developments about the U.S. airliner that exploded over Lockerbie and the increasing Western threats against Libya—that Cairo rejects the U.S. request for urgent military maneuvers near the Libyan coast. He told the U.S. Administration that Cairo refuses to offer any military support or permit U.S. aircraft to fly through its airspace if the goal is to carry out military action against Libya, even if this were to strain Egyptian-U.S. relations. Cairo advised the U.S. Administration that the Egyptian leadership fears reaction on Egyptian streets if there is aggression against Libya, particularly since Egypt can see no convincing justification for committing aggression. Mubarak called for resorting to talks through legal means or international bodies. Cairo said any U.S. military action will harm the U.S. presence in the Middle East and endanger U.S. interests.

Mubarak, Czechoslovakia's Havel Begin Talks

NC1512182791 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1750 GMT 15 Dec 91

[Text] Cairo, 15 Dec (MENA)—President Mubarak held talks with Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel at the presidential office in Heliopolis this evening.

Foreign Minister Musa said that the one-on-one talks dealt with the situation in Europe and current developments in the USSR and East Europe. Egyptian-Czechoslovak relations and the Middle East peace process were also discussed.

Havel Praises Talks, Views Issues

NC1512220491 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2125 GMT 15 Dec 91

[Text] Cairo, 15 Dec (MENA)—Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel praised his meeting with President Husni Mubarak this evening, saying that the talks dealt with political issues, the situation in the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia, North-South relations, and Egyptian-Czechoslovak relations.

In an interview with Egyptian television aired tonight, President Havel praised Egyptian-Czechoslovak relations, noting that they are free of any blemishes due to the countries' similar views regarding various issues.

President Havel mentioned Czechoslovakia's positive role in supporting Arab and Palestinian rights. He said that following the collapse of the system in his country and while building democracy Czechoslovakia changed its foreign policy, improved relations with the United States, and restored diplomatic relations with Israel.

In the interview, President Havel said that his country does not want to freeze its relations with Egypt. On the contrary, Czechoslovakia wants to build relations with Egypt on the basis of absolute friendship, President Havel said. Czechoslovakia wants the Middle East peace process to continue, he noted, adding that this is why his visit here is significant. President Havel said that it is no coincidence that Egypt is the first stop on his tour.

Leaders Discuss World, Middle East Events

NC1612105691 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0945 GMT 16 Dec 91

[Text] Cairo, 16 Dec (MENA)—Presidents Husni Mubarak and Vaclav Havel of Czechoslovakia held a closed meeting in the presidential office in Heliopolis this morning in which they resumed their talks that began yesterday. The meeting lasted for 90 minutes.

Muhammad 'Abd-al-Mun'im, President Mubarak's press adviser, stated that the two leaders reviewed the various aspects of the international situation in light of recent world developments. They also reviewed in detail current developments in the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia as well as in the Middle East.

'Abd-al-Mun'im added that the two leaders reviewed the peace process and the stances adopted by the various parties concerned, in addition to bilateral relations.

The Egyptian and Czech delegations held a meeting attended by the Egyptians ministers of finance, economy, supplies, industry, and cabinet affairs. Ways of developing economic and industrial relations between the two countries were discussed.

Writer Urges Public Referendum, Free Elections

NC1312122891 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 6 Dec 91 p 7

[Article by 'Ali Salamah: "The World Marches Toward More Democracy, While Egypt Marches Toward More Dictatorship"]

[Excerpts] On 11 November, the national (independent) newspaper AL-AHRAM reported French President Francois Mitterrand declaring that he may resign his post before his second term of office expires, and will propose a major amendment to the French Constitution next year. In a television interview, Mitterrand said that the amendment will reduce the presidential term of office and increase parliamentary authority and that the proposal will be submitted to referendum. [passage omitted]

How great you are, Mitterrand. Although your country enjoys real democracy and ample freedoms, you still insist on furthering democracy, limiting the president's authority, reducing the term of presidency, and enhancing parliamentary authorities. You are showing

all world rulers how to despise positions, authority, and power, and accept that men are mortal, only homelands are immortal. [passage omitted]

It is distressing that while the person on top of authority in France is taking that wonderful course, President Mubarak takes the opposite, working to further dictatorship. This is no exaggeration. What we see in the Egyptian political arena each day convinces us more that the country is heading toward more dictatorship. This is all due to President Mubarak's insistence on not responding to grass roots demands truly and honestly represented in the opposition parties, primarily al-Wafd. This has helped mistakes, sins, and crimes to flourish, blessed by the ruling regime in a manner hitherto unknown to Egypt. The ruling regime's worst mistake is to turn a deaf ear to the opposition and not allow the president to meet opposition leaders who truly represent the public, when the president seeks to meet opposition leaders in the Eastern and Western countries he visits.

Your Excellency President Mubarak, regrettably enough, you close your eyes and block your ears to avoid seeing or hearing your party's men blatantly assaulting democracy each day, undermining political life in Egypt. The last assault was the People's Assembly's (made up of the men of your party) on judicial power—primarily the Court of Cassation—annulling its rulings on complaints filed against your party's deputies, who do not represent the people. By so doing they committed a grave offense against parliamentary life in Egypt under your rule, infringing the Court of Cassation's authorities laid down by Article 193 of the Constitution.

President Mubarak, I hope your time will allow you to read some of the questions I am rightfully honored to raise as a citizen investing a lifetime in democracy.

—Mr. President, why do you not call a public referendum on dissolving the present People's Assembly which committed this grave offense against our parliamentary life, particularly since public trust was shaken by recent incidents and the suspicions which blemished many of its members?

—Why do you insist on rejecting a free referendum on a new constitution replacing that drawn up under the totalitarian regime, when many of the present constitution's articles are inconsistent with democracy?

—Why do you not order free elections under a neutral ministry, so that people can rule themselves as true democracy stipulates. [passage omitted]

—Why do you lament opposition parties abstaining from running the recent elections—which you insist were clean, despite several rulings which affirmed they were neither clean nor neutral?

—Why, Mr. President, did you insist, when your party's parliamentary panel met, that the present People's Assembly was freely elected, representing the will of the people, despite Court of Cassation rulings which annulled many members' membership, and despite different courts' verdicts?

—Why do you not agree to give the Judiciary the exclusive right to judge the soundness of People's Assembly and Consultative Council membership?

—Why do you not abandon the party chairmanship and content yourself with being president, so that you can arbitrate impartially between the various authorities and parties?

—Why does Egypt not go back to being a market economy, now that communist countries have lost faith in a state-guided economy and centralized planning, shifting to a free economy after the disasters they encountered?

—Why do you not turn radio and television into a platform for parties' views and counter-views, as in other world states?

—And finally, why do you insist on rejecting change?

I candidly and clearly say to you, Mr. President, that we still hope you will listen attentively to us, the nation's conscience, the custodians of democracy, and the voices which express the nation's hopes and pains. May the Almighty grant our wishes.

Libya

Foreign Liaison Official: No Nuclear Program

LD1412125591 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1108 GMT 14 Dec 91

[Text] Libya, 14 Dec (JANA)—Brother Ibrahim al-Bishari, secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation, affirmed today that Libya has absolutely no intention of benefiting from Soviet nuclear scientists by tempting them to come to Libya, because Libya does not have a nuclear program, and has no need for one, since it is a small developing country with a limited population, working toward developing its agricultural, educational and health resources in accordance with its humble capabilities.

Libya is against all nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons of destruction, and raises objections to these weapons at all international conferences and on all occasions. Libya reaffirms that it is not connected with any nuclear program, and that it is committed to the UN covenants and the Geneva agreement concerning nuclear weapons, as well as IAEA resolutions.

Brother Ibrahim concluded his statement by saying that Libya is looking forward to the time when all weapons are destroyed so that all people can live in peace, harmony, and love.

Official on Arab Mediation of Lockerbie Crisis

LD1312173891 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1400 GMT 13 Dec 91

[Text] London, 13 Dec (JANA)—Ibrahim al-Bishari, the brother secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation, has reaffirmed that the great Jamahiriyah pins great hopes on the results of the Arab mediation into the crisis between Libya, the United States, Britain, and France. In a statement to 'The International AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT,' brother al-Bishari expressed satisfaction with the solidarity declared by the sixth Islamic summit with his country, and said that Libya's stance is just and enjoys credibility, and that the conference in the final documents approved a resolution proposed by the Arab Maghreb countries on supporting Libya's stance, which calls for an investigation of the those involved in the Lockerbie incident, or even into the incident of the French aircraft.

Brother al-Bishari added that the summit expressed its categorical rejection of the use of, or the threat of the use of force, or the carrying out of any military action by the United States and Britain against Libya, or any economic measure against the Libyan Arab people.

Regarding Libya's reply to the European Community's rejection of the Libyan offer to set up a joint international investigation commission and the demand to hand over to Britain those Libyans who are accused, brother al-Bishari said that the Libyan laws which have been in force for decades indict Libyans if they commit crimes abroad and severely punish them, but these laws do not permit the handing over of Libyan citizens to another state.

Sudan

Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani Begins Visit

Al-Bashir Previews Visit

EA1312071191 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Excerpt] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council and the Council of Ministers, said that the visit by Iranian President Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani to Sudan on 13 December would boost relations between the two fraternal countries and widen horizons of cooperation and cohesion. Lt. Gen. al-Bashir said during his meeting with media leaders at the general secretariat of the Council of Ministers yesterday that the visit would contribute to laying a strong basis for Sudanese-Iranian relations. He pointed out that relations between the two countries had witnessed a great leap forward this year.

Commenting on the media campaign unleashed by some hostile media against the Iranian president's visit to Sudan, Lt. Gen. al-Bashir said that the campaign did not surprise him because it came from those who want to blockade Sudan and to tear apart the unity of Arab and Islamic countries so that these people can achieve their goals of dominating the resources of this nation. Therefore, these quarters resent any rapprochement between two fraternal Islamic states. [passage omitted]

Officials Comment

EA1412174091 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 14 Dec 91

[Text] Colonel Salah al-Din Karrar, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and chairman of the economic committee, has affirmed that the visit of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Muslimin 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani to Khartoum comes at a time when the Islamic nation faces many dangers. He said the visit would serve to strengthen cooperation between the two countries. He said such cooperation must be initiated by establishing economic integration, particularly regarding food, a priority issue for the two countries and the Islamic world.

For his part, Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman Muhammad Sa'id, Sudan's ambassador to Iran, has welcomed the Iranian president's visit to Khartoum. He said it coincided with very important and critical international circumstances when the arrogant states were cooperating to strike at Islamic forces. He emphasized the need for coordination and cooperation between all the revolutionary Islamic states to face these threats.

His excellency the ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran, meanwhile, has emphasized the importance of this visit, saying: We as Muslims must face the threats against the Islamic nation by strengthening Islamic unity.

Dr. Ghazi Salah al-Din, minister of state at the presidency of the Republic, has said that this visit represents a new stage in Sudanese-Iranian relations. It was of particular significance in the context of the current international hegemony led by the arrogant superpowers.

Military Talks Begin

EA1312133291 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1445 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Text] Khartoum, 12 Dec (SUNA)—Sudanese-Iranian military talks started here this morning. The Sudanese side comprised Colonel Sulayman Muhammad Sulayman, Revolution Command Council member; Major General 'Uthman Muhammad Hasan, state minister for defense; and Lieutenant General Hassan 'Abd-al-Rahman, chief of the general staff. The Iranian side was made up of Defense Minister Akbar Torkan and a number of military specialists.

After the first round of talks, the Iranian defense minister said that the talks focused on bilateral cooperation between the armed forces of the two countries and ways of promoting and strengthening them. Moreover, Mr. Torkan told the press that the visit by Hojjat ol-Eslam

Hashemi-Rafsanjani to Sudan would boost Sudanese-Iranian relations toward more development [words indistinct] Islamic brotherhood league.

Al-Bashir, Iranian Defense Minister Confer

EA1312133691 Khartoum SUNA in English 1631 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Text] Khartoum, 12 Dec (SUNA)—Revolution Command Council (RCC) chairman Gen 'Umar al-Bashir received at his office at the Armed Forces General Command here Thursday the visiting defence minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Akbar Torkan, and the accompanying delegation.

Torkan said in press statement that the encounter tackled the joint Sudanese-Iranian cooperation, affirming his country's readiness to further enhance the fruitful cooperation between the two countries. He added that the visit to Sudan by Iranian President Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, due Friday, comes in response to an invitation by Gen al-Bashir and is considered as a great step towards boosting the bilateral relations in all political, economic and military spheres.

The minister hailed the Sudan [words indistinct] noting that Sudan is one of the pioneering Islamic countries which applied the Islamic programmes.

The Iranian official pointed to the support received by the rebellion movement in south Sudan, saying that some circles are extending assistance to the movement with the aim of checking the Islamic tide. He affirmed the Sudan's ability to stand in the face of these attempts which, he said, come from abroad, noting that Sudan is continuing its march towards the expansion of Islamic thought.

The minister called for cooperation among the Islamic countries, pointing to the wide spread of Islamic thought in the Islamic world following the victory of the Iranian Revolution. He cited the achievements realised by the Afghan people and the Palestinian intifadah (uprising) in this connection. The Iranian minister indicated that the forces of arrogance are resisting the expanding Islamic movement, noting that these forces are plotting against Sudan.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Arrives 13 Dec

EA1312200591 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Dec 91

[Text] His Excellency Sheykh Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Muslimin Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, arrived in Khartoum at 1600 on a four-day official visit to the country.

Leading those who received him at the airport was Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council [RCC] and the Council of Ministers, and their excellencies the RCC members, ministers, high-ranking state officials, and the diplomatic corps in Khartoum.

In a statement upon his arrival in Khartoum, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: The reason we are visiting Sudan is to meet the Sudanese people, whom we have heard about, and to acquaint ourselves with their positions and [word indistinct]. It is also to meet officials in the Sudanese leadership so that we can discuss regional and international issues as well as bilateral relations.

Lt. Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir welcomed the country's great guest and said that Sudan had been looking forward to this visit since the outbreak of the revolution in Iran. He added that the visit was aimed at exchanging views on issues of concern to our countries and the Muslim nation, and that it will be an example of Islamic cooperation.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Al-Bashir Meet

LD1512100991 Tehran IRNA in English 0755 GMT 15 Dec 91

[Text] Khartoum, Dec. 15, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and head of Sudan's Revolutionary Command Council General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir discussed Tehran-Khartoum ties and international developments during official talks on Saturdy.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani who arrived here on Friday on an official visit praised Sudan's Islamic movement and voiced Tehran's readiness to put her experiences at the disposal of Khartoum.

He mentioned domestic disputes, civil wars, clashes with neighboring countries among plans designed by world arrogance almost everywhere.

One of their policies was to weaken other countries economically, he said adding that in Sudan this was easier due to the problems remaining from the past and non-utilisation of the country's resources.

He regretted that the potentials of Islamic countries were used against one another.

Al-Bashir said Hashemi-Rafsanjani's visit had provided a good chance for the two Islamic states to study the latest world developments and take steps towards preservation of the security of Islamic countries and the interests of Islamic ummah [community].

Inspired by the Islamic revolution in Iran, an Islamic government has been founded in Sudan, said al-Bashir adding that it was clear that enemies of Islam consider this as a threat against their interests in Africa and would make efforts to prevent it.

However, he pledged that they would resist and continue their path inspired by the valiant resistance of the Iranian nation who led by Imam Khomeyni remained committed to Islam and revolution despite all the hostilities and world conspiracies.

Referring to Iran-Sudan identical stands vis-a-vis issues of Palestine, Afghanistan and world developments, he said that Iran was the target of propaganda invasions by the global arrogance because it wanted to decide freely.

Calling for cooperation in political, cultural, economic and technical fields, he said that the Muslim people of Sudan were looking forward to Islamic unity.

The meeting was also attended by a number of ministers and MPs from the two sides, including the foreign ministers.

In another development, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani met with political and administrative leaders and officials of Sudan in which he praised the Islamic movement in Sudan and urged them to preserve and intensify their unity.

He also advised the Sudanese youth to acquire knowledge and technology at universities and higher education and called on the industries owners and work force of the country to make efforts to flourish their country by taking advantage of the God-given resources.

Present in the session were President al-Bashir, members of the Sudanese Revolutionary Council and members of the Iranian delegation accompanying President Hashemi-Rafsanjani in his visit.

A large number of Sudanese people met with President Hashemi-Rafsanjani on the second day of his stay here.

Addressing the gathering, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that he was carrying the message of the revolutionary nation of Iran and the leader of the Islamic Republic Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i to the revolutionary and Muslim nation of Sudan.

He stated that the Islamic revolution of Sudan would undoubtedly seriously affect the entire Arab world, Africa and the world of Islam.

"It is a shame that those (Arab leaders) who have such people behind them and such soldiers at the battlefield—people who tolerate problems and do not succumb to hardships, submit to reconciliation," he said.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed that the two Islamic revolutions of Iran and Sudan with regards to the strategic importance they enjoy in Asia, Africa and the Middle East, undoubtedly can be the source of movement and revolution in the Islamic world.

He said that the Muslim revolutionary people would not permit Palestine to remain in the Zionists' claws.

The Islamic ummah with more than 50 independent countries, more than one fourth of the world population, over fifty percent of the energy resources of the world, located in the most sensitive and strategic points of the world, with the Islamic ideology, the Holy Koran and a leader like Imam Khomeyni can play a considerable role in the new world order, he said.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani accompanied by General al-Bashir also met with the leaders of prayers, judges and ulema of Sudan on Saturday during which unity between Shiite and Sunni Muslims was stressed.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Addresses Rally

LD1412225691 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 14 Dec 91

[Excerpts] At a gathering of Sudan's leaders and political and administrative officials this morning, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani delivered a speech in which he expressed gratitude for the enthusiastic and amazing welcome accorded him and the Iranian delegation by the people and officials of Sudan. Let me draw your attention to our correspondent's report:

[Unidentified correspondent] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani this morning took part in a gathering of Sudanese leaders and political and administrative officials. In the splendid gathering, which was attended by Mr. 'Umar al-Bashir and members of Sudan's Revolution Council, as well as by members of the high-ranking Iranian delegation, several Sudanese officials welcomed the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran and conveyed their warmest greetings. [passage omitted]

Mr. 'Umar al-Bashir thanked our country's president for attending the splendid gathering and expressed the eagerness of those present to hear the remarks of our country's president.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani began his remarks, which were very warmly received by the audience, by congratulating those present on their revolutionary and Islamic fervor. He continued: The path you have chosen is the path of happiness and the path of Islam. The effects of your (?correct) choice can be clearly seen in your splendid gatherings and in your remarks, slogans, speeches, and songs.

I wish to convey the warm greetings of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the eminent leader of the Islamic Revolution, who loves you as he does his own children. Your youth, elderly people, women, men, and children have chosen the path of Islam and the Koran, a path which guarantees the honor of Muslims.

During the short time that I have been with you, you have revived in me the memories of the early months of the Islamic Revolution. In your committed poems, songs, and speeches, I have witnessed the movement toward the essence of Islam and toward the profound aims of the Islamic movement which arises from the ideology of pure Islam.

Your women are here in Islamic hejab [dress] and with the spirit of women demanded by Islam, and your people and youth have that same simplicity which arises from the spirit of Islam. One of the advantages of your revolution is that you are attached to the divine holy

book, the Koran. The conditions imposed on you for years by colonialism have filled you with feelings and cries against injustice.

Our country's president added: Your knowledge of Islam and of the lofty and shining thoughts of our deceased imam is a great investment which must always be preserved. I advise you to maintain your unity and to strengthen it. Let your youth use all their efforts to gain knowledge in universities and scientific centers. Let working forces, the forces of science and experience, and owners of capital use your great divinely bestowed resources to develop this Islamic country. Know that Muslim youths throughout the country are watching your actions!

[Announcer] According to the latest report from Khartoum, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, on his second day in Sudan, took part in a gathering of 200,000 people from Khartoum and surrounding towns and delivered a speech in which he referred to the extensive presence of the revolutionary people of Sudan and said: If those who want to achieve something by negotiating with and giving legitimacy to the agressive and illegitimate Zionists were aware of your revolutionary spirit, they would not reveal so many weaknesses. Mr. Hashemi- Rafsanjani added: With the strength which the Muslims of the world have, with a population of over one billion, Palestine and Holy Jerusalem will undoubtedly not remain in the hands of the Zionists forever.

Iranian Leader, al-Bashir Address Rally

EA1412220891 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 Dec 91

[Excerpt] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, Revolution Command chairman, and the country's great guest, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Muslimin 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, this evening attended a great popular rally at the al-Bay'ah ground at Arkawit [Khartoum suburb].

Addressing the rally, Lt. Gen. Umar said: As we welcome brother President Hashemi-Rafsanjani today, we are actually welcoming the Muslim nation of Iran and all the leaders of the Iranian Islamic revolution. He added: We cherish the ideas of Imam Khamene'i and pay tribute to the struggle and holy war of the Iranian Islamic revolution's revolutionaries, the revolution which has restored to the Muslims and Islam their glory and honor, reviving hope in hearts after an interruption lasting many centuries. Lt. Gen. al-Bashir added that the Iranian Islamic revolution had become a torch illuminating the way for all Muslims and a protector and defender of Muslims throughout the world. The Iranian revolution, he added, has been and remains a guide for the national salvation revolution.

Lt. Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir then ushered in Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Muslimin 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who addressed the meeting and expressed admiration for the Sudanese people's struggle and holy war for the sake of Islam. He said that Sudan had succeeded in charting its way in the Islamic, Arab, and African arena, stating that the Sudanese Islamic revolution would have a great impact on the Islamic and Arab world and the whole of Africa. President Hashemi-Rafsanjani went on to say: The Islamic morale I have witnessed here in Sudan is a thorn in the eyes of the Zionists and the states of world arrogance. He added that Sudan enjoyed an honor and morale that put to shame all the submissive individuals in the world. The Iranian president emphasized that as part of the Islamic revolution in Iran, and by virtue of Sudan's strategic position, the Sudanese revolution could exert great influence throughout the Islamic world.

He said that if the Islamic world had been united the Zionist power would not have survived on earth. President Hashemi-Rafsanjani went on to say that the Muslim nations would not allow Jerusalem to remain in the hands of the Zionists. He said: Sudan with its struggle, revolution, and leaders could establish an independent Islamic state capable of challenging the states of world arrogance and atheism.

His excellency noted the collapse of the communist system in the world and said that the world is on the threshold of the new international order, and the Muslim nations must therefore perform an active role in charting out the future. Sudan and Iran could play a greater part in charting this future, he added.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani announced that the Iranian Islamic revolution would be at the disposal of Sudan for support in the long run. [passage omitted]

Commercial Agreement Signed 14 Dec

LD1512072191 Tehran IRNA in English 1232 GMT 14 Dec 91

[Text] Khartoum, Dec. 14, IRNA—Iran is to export oil, agricultural machinery, medicine and electrical equipment to Sudan, according to an agreement signed in Khartoum Saturday morning.

The agreement on trade concluded by Iran's Minister of Commerce 'Abdol Hoseyn Vahaji also stipulates establishment of shipping line between Iran and Sudan.

In return Sudan is to export meat, vegetable oil and maize to the Islamic Republic.

The Iranian Minister of Commerce Vahaji is in Khartoum since last week to conclude trade agreements with Sudan.

The two countries are also to form a joint chamber of commerce in order to promote bilateral trade and explore avenues of cooperation.

Meanwhile, it was disclosed here today that two Iranian cargo ships carrying road-building equipment will be arriving here next week. This is part of the agreements

signed between Iran's Ministry of Construction Jihad and the Sudanese Government last year.

All the three dailies of Khartoum Saturday continued their extensive coverage of the visit of Iranian President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani who arrived in the Sudanese capital Friday afternoon at the head of high-ranking delegation on a four day visit. The trip is the first by an Iranian head of state to Sudan since the country gained independence in 1956.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani has received a warm welcome in Khartoum with street walls adorned with banners welcoming him in both Arabic and Persian languages.

So great is the enthusiasm that local residents gather in front of any building where the president is scheduled to have a meeting, cheering him and waiving the flag of the Islamic Republic with groups of traditional musicians playing Sudanese music.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani held his first round of talks with head of the Sudanese Government General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir after arrival Friday and later attended a dinner banquet given by the latter in his honour. General al-Bashir presented the highest medal of Sudan, "Friendship and Unity" to the Iranian president.

The Iranian delegation in Sudan includes Minister of Foreign Affairs 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Minister of Construction Jihad Gholam Reza Foruzesh, Minister of Commerce 'Abdol Hoseyn Vahaji, Minister of Information Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Fallahiyan, Minister of Defence and Armed Forces Logistics Akbar Torkan and head of the plan and budget organization Mas'ud Roghani-Zanjani.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani earler attended the sixth summit conference of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) in Dakar, Senegal December 9-12.

Iranian Leader Urges Muslim Solidarity

EA1512194091 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in English 1500 GMT 15 Dec 91

[Text] The Iranian president has reemphasized the importance of solidarity between all the Muslim countries for confronting the forces of international arrogance and cultural invasion.

Addressing a gathering of Muslim scholars here, Hashemi-Rafsanjani praised the unity of Muslim scholars of the Sudan for their efforts to lay down the basis of the Islamic sharia. He said that the elevation of the voice of Islam in a number of countries as the Sudan, Kashmir, Lebanon, Afghanistan affirms the Islamic revolution's steady stride. He pointed out that the current talks between Sudan and Islamic Republic of Iran are aimed at utilizing the capabilities and energies of the two countries for the interest of their peoples.

Meanwhile, Revolution Command Council Chairman General 'Umar al-Bashir addressed the gathering, welcoming the visit of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. He indicated that the Sudanese people have been awaiting this meeting since the advent of the Iranian revolution which was led by the late leader Ayatollah Khomeyni. Gen. al-Bashir said that the Muslim people of the Sudan have regarded the Iranian Revolution as a guide for rebuilding a state based on the teachings of Islam. He described the national salvation revolution as a twin of the Iranian Revolution since it was able to eliminate partisanship and sectarianism in the Sudan. Gen. al-Bashir hailed the solidarity of the Muslim scholars with the national salvation revolution since its eruption in June 1989.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Meets Clerics

LD1512214991 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 15 Dec 91

[Text] On the second night of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani's visit to Sudan, he received Dr. Hasan al-Turabi, one of the prominent Islamic dignitaries of that country, together with a number of Sudanese Hashemi ulema and scholars. Dr. al-Turabi expressed delight at meeting with the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran and said: This is the first trip taken to Sudan at the highest levels by a prominent Islamic leader, and it has met with the million-strong welcome of the masses. The Sudanese nation would like to strengthen all the more its Islamic brotherly roots with the Muslim and revolutionary nation of Iran.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani then expressed thanks for the enthusiastic welcome given to him by the people of Sudan and said: We find that the Sudanese people's awareness and morale is very good. In spite of their difficulties, they enjoy a special happiness and enthusiasm. The attachment of the people of Sudan to Islam and the Koran is unique, and if Islamic ulema in other countries were to educate people in the same way, they would soon achieve an Islamic revolution.

The president added: The objective of our trip to Sudan was to meet Muslim brethren and to emphasize support for the people's revolution of Sudan.

Al-Bashir Hails Iran's Example

EA1512200091 Khartoum SUNA in English 1652 GMT 15 Dec 91

[Text] al-Hasahisah, 15 Dec (SUNA)—Chairman of the Revolution Command Council (RCC) General 'Umar Ahmad al-Bashir has hailed the role played by the Iranian Muslims for demolishing the citadels of ignorance and imperialism and establishing the Islamic Republic after putting an end to the dictatorial rule of Iran.

Addressing the huge mass rally organised in al-Hasahisah town, in the central state, on the occasion of

celebrating mass marriage of 1,050 couples, Gen. al-Bashir reiterated that the Iranian revolution has become a minaret illuminating the way for the Muslims. He praised the positive stances of the Muslim peoples with the Iranian revolution.

The RCC chairman told the huge mass rally that the national salvation revolution had opted to return the Sudanese people to their faith and to create an ideal Islamic society in the Sudan, noting that organising mass marriages is part of this social revolution. He vowed that the revolution will assist the youths to live a life of virtue through marriage, hailing in this connection the authorities of al-Hasahisah province for organising the biggest mass marriage in the Sudan since the advent of the revolution. Gen. al-Bashir announced a donation of 10 million [Sudanese] pounds for organising the next mass marriage in the province.

The visiting president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, addressed the ceremony, blessing the marriages. "What we have seen shows that the Islamic revolution in the Sudan has reached all aspects of life in the country," President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said, noting that the world should follow the example of the Sudan as regards mass marriage experience. He called for mobilizing all efforts to boost these values and ethics of Islam.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani further hailed the mutual trust between the national salvation revolution's leadership and the Sudanese masses, pointing out that the existence of distrust between the Iranian people and their leadership helped the Iranian revolution [as received] in the processes of social change and construction and to confront all difficulties despite the siege imposed on the country for eight years by all international infidel forces.

He said that the Sudanese people are similar to their Iranian people in rallying behind their leadership, noting that such would help Sudan overcome its difficulties. He commended the Sudanese people and their revolution adherence to Islam.

The central state wali [governor], Colonel Sulayman Muhammad Sulayman, welcomed the visitor of the country, noting that the warm reception confirms the love of the Sudanese people of their Iranian brothers and their Islamic revolution. He announced that Sinjah Province [as received] would witness on the coming days a mass marriage of 5,000 couples.

Gen. al-Bashir and his guest arrived al-Hasahisah Sunday afternoon.

Cooperation Protocols Signed 16 Dec

LD1612123191 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Dec 91

[Text] Today, on the final day of the visit of Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani to Sudan, the two countries signed cooperation protocols. The protocols were signed in the presence of Mr. 'Umar al-Bashir, head of Sudan's Revolutionary Command Council, Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Iranian Minister of Construction Jihad Foruzesh, and Sudanese Finance and Economic Planning Minister Hamadi, as heads of the joint economic commission.

The two presidents then took part in a news conference.

'No Military Forces' Sent To Sudan

LD1612124491 Tehran IRNA in English 1126 GMT 16 Dec 91

[Text] Khartoum, Dec. 16, IRNA—President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani of Iran said here Monday that Iran has sent no military forces to Sudan to train the Sudanese Army.

Speaking in a press conference before departure for Tehran, the Iranian president refuted Western media claims that the Islamic Republic of Iran has sent forces to Sudan to train guerrillas. He said that Sudan does not need the Iranian manpower and such reports are nothing but fabrications. "Our cooperation with Sudan is centered on technical, economic, and trade cooperation."

The Iranian president, who wound up his four-day visit to Khartoum, left for Tehran at noon and was seen off by head of the Revolutionary Command Council General al-Bashir and other high-ranking Sudanese officials.

Speaking in a joint press conference with General al-Bashir at the presidential palace, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that Iran and Sudan have concluded agreements in agricultural and economic cooperation. He added that Iran is ready to assist Sudan in training skilled manpower.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani added that Muslims should avoid schism in all its forms and should not allow discord sowing elements to make Muslims confront one another.

General al-Bashir, commenting on the programs of his government for Islamization of Sudan, said that his government has campaigned against usury, has based its judicial system on Islamic principles and canon, has promoted Islamic hejab and has established Islamic funds. He added that his government has strived for the creation of "Muslim militant" Sudanese and that in its efforts for the Islamization of the country it is making use of the experience of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani called his trip to Sudan as highly successful. He said the trip provided an opportunity to become familiar with Sudanese Government and nation and the way the country is advancing towards Islamization.

During the visit the intense interest of the Sudanese people and leaders in the Islamic revolution of Iran was fully demonstrated. "The visit could enable Sudan to make use of the great experience of the Islamic revolution of Iran," he told reporters.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that in view of the Western alliance, the Muslim nations should launch a large-scale cooperation since they share common interests.

On his participation in the sixth Islamic Dakar summit, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that he was satisfied with the outcome of the conference which ended in the Senegalese capital last Wednesday. "The Iranian delegation had an active presence in the summit. I myself held 30 meetings with heads of the delegations...and the final declaration contained most of the issues put forward by the Islamic Republic delegation. The only point of weakness in the summit conference was approving the talks with Israel." The president stressed that Tehran is fully against negotiation with the Zionist regime. Otherwise, the summit provided a forum for cooperation in various fields for the Islamic countries.

Asked to comment on economic situation in Iran, the president, who is the first Iranian leader to visit Sudan since its independence, said that the economic and construction plans were proceeding ahead in accordance with the plans. He added that his administration has curbed inflation and has boosted production.

Tunisia

Ghannouchi Denies Deportation From Algeria, Sudan

LD1612100191 Algiers APS in Arabic 0840 GMT 16 Dec 91

[Excerpts] London, 16 Dec (APS)—Cheikh Rached Ghannouchi, leader of the al-Nahda Movement, which is banned in Tunisia, has denied that Algeria could have deported him from its soil. Ghannouchi told AL-HAYAT the following: "Once again I deny reports circulated unintentionally by Arab pens that I was deported from Algeria." [passage omitted]

"I left Algeria of my own accord, thus robbing the death squads that were assigned to me of the opportunity of killing me. For the very same reason, I left brotherly Sudan. I thanked its people for their good hospitality and returned my [Sudanese] passport to them and expressed my gratitude to them."

Answering a question regarding relations between the Islamic al-Nahda and the Islamic Salvation Front, Cheikh Ghannouchi gave the following answer: "The Islamists in Algeria are our brothers and neighbors. We are related to them through fraternal ties of religion, common history, one geography, ties of blood, and the single destiny [words indistinct]. We are still preachers of moderation on both levels. We have had dialogues with the activists in the Islamic sphere inside and outside the region in order to give the field of action a push toward positive interaction and a gradual realization of the goals. We are looking for areas of cooperation with all national trends, including the non-Islamic ones, while taking into account a number of considerations, including the nature of moderation in the Islamic perception itself. Reply thou the evil with that which is fairer," as the Koran states [words indistinct]. [passage omitted]

President, 'Arafat Discuss Islamic Summit

LD1412175491 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 Dec 91

[Excerpt] This afternoon President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali met with Palestinian President [as heard] Yasir 'Arafat at Carthage Palace. 'Arafat stated that this meeting tackled the results of the ICO summit held in Dakar and the resolutions adopted by it, which he described as important, especially those in connection with the issues of Jerusalem and support for the intifadah.

Abu 'Ammar ['Arafat's nom de guerre] discussed Israel's acts against the al-Aqsa Mosque and the expulsion of Palestinian inhabitants in order to replace them with settlers. He said that this is obstructing the peace steps made by the Arab delegations in Washington.

Mr. Yasir 'Arafat said that his talks also tackled the activities of the Palestinian delegation in Washington, in particular the hard line adopted by the Israeli side, which is trying to avoid meeting with the Palestinian delegation. He expressed his hope that an agreement is finally reached to enable the continuation of the negotiations. [passage omitted]

Bahrain

Daily Foresees 'Imminent Coup' in Baghdad

JN1212182491 Manama WAKH in English 1600 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Excerpt] Manama, Dec 12 (GNA)—[passage omitted] A Bahraini English language daily said that "UN Secretary General Javir Perez de Cuellar hammered another nail into Saddam Husayn's coffin yesterday by squarely blaming Baghdad for starting the eight year Gulf war."

In its editorial comment today, 'GULF DAILY NEWS' [GDN] said "Iran is now in a strong position to file claims in international tribunals for billions of dollars worth of reparations."

"This could prove the final straw that sparks a military coup in Baghdad, especially judging by yesterday's U.S. intelligence revelations of serious strain within Saddam's inner circle."

"The dismissal of his son-in-law, Husayn Kamil, last month was the first real sign of fissures inside the tight family group."

There is no question also that sanctions have had a devastating effect on Iraq's economy, creating a permanent political crisis," the paper said.

"Baghdad has got nowhere in evading diplomatic isolation since the Kuwait invasion .. [as received] vividly demonstrated by Arab leaders at this week's Islamic summit in Dakar."

"It all points to an imminent military coup, and U.S.-led allies must be totally prepared to assist senior Iraqi officers when the attempt is made." GDN concluded. [passage omitted]

BNLF Criticizes Deportation of Citizen to Cuba

JN1412145891 Baghdad INA in English 1325 GMT 14 Dec 91

[Text] Amman, Dec. 14, INA—Bahrain's National Liberation Front [BNLF] and the Bahraini Human Rights Committee condemned the dangerous violations pursued by the Government of Manama.

The Front has confirmed in a statement that the decision of the Bahraini security authorities to expel Bahraini citizen Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rashid to Cuba is considered a flagrant violation of human rights of Bahrain's Constitution and of all international charters related to human rights, and confirms the government's open enmity to all who have a different opinion and demand of parliamentary life and democratic freedoms.

The committee on defending human rights in Bahrain demanded in an appeal to all human rights organisations in the world to immediately intervene and demand the return of Dr 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rashid to his country and denounce the resolution of deportation.

Kuwait

Prime Minister on Gulf Council Meeting

PM1312162491 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 11-17 Dec 91 pp24-25

[Interview with Kuwaiti Heir Apparent and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah by 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Rashid and Wahib Ghurab in Kuwait; date not given]

[Text] We asked his highness the Amir's Deputy and Heir Apparent Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah, in the presence of Information Minister Dr. Badr al-Ya'qub, about the significance of the timing of the [Gulf] summit conference and the fact that it will be held in Kuwait, now that it and the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states have overcome the biggest threat to them. What should we expect from the conference?

[Shaykh Sa'd] After Kuwait's liberation following the sinful aggression, the attention of the Kuwaiti people and the peoples of the Gulf states was certainly focused on the question of what recommendations the GCC leaders were going to make in various fields such as, for example, the military, security, economic, and information fields. We learned some lessons after the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait. One lesson was to intensify cooperation and coordination among the GCC leaders and find more than one formula for projecting that cooperation at Gulf and Arab levels. We also learned not to give Iraq or anyone else a chance to do something similar to what happened in August 1990. The time has come to translate the talk of cooperation, solidarity, and unity of ranks and views into a formula for tangible action.

[AL-MAJALLAH] In search of a clearer answer, we said: The signs here and the preparatory meetings prior to the summit indicate that this year's resolutions will be stronger and more important than the resolutions we have seen over the past 11 years, particularly as popular feelings support that trend.

[Shaykh Sa'd] Indeed. Everyone expects the conference, which is being held under exceptional circumstances, to issue resolutions and recommendations reflecting seriousness and unity of words, deeds, and fate.

[AL-MAJALLAH] The feeling is that the Gulf citizens may expect something to be achieved at the political level, for instance, but they also want achievements that would be tangible to them as citizens. How do the leaders feel about that?

[Shaykh Sa'd] The citizens have many hopes, aspirations, and ambitions to do with unity of word and action. These are big important words. We are sincerely working for the fulfillment of these aims which directly and indirectly affect public interests. Today we are more eager than ever to realize these great values and to translate them into action. That is what we expect from the Kuwait summit.

[AL-MAJALLAH] We know that your main concern today is the release of the Kuwaiti POWs from Iraqi prisons and having them back with their relatives and families. Have you been given any promises on that matter?

[Shaykh Sa'd] We are continuously in contact with the Red Cross to speed up the release of all POWs, including those in Iraqi prisons. We are also in contact with other international organizations which are making great efforts for the release of the prisoners. We call on the Security Council to put pressure on the Iraqi regime to implement Security Council resolution 687.

[AL-MAJALLAH] How would they be released? The possibility of launching a new war is now remote and, therefore, they could not be released by force. Iraq has no intention of releasing them. How will you resolve this dilemma?

[Shaykh Sa'd] A resolution was adopted by an international body, the Security Council, whose members agreed to implement that resolution. That is their responsibility. The resolution was also approved by all the world because it was based on chapter 7 of the UN charter. That is why it is binding on all world states.

[AL-MAJALLAH] But Iraq refused to do so in the past and it procrastinated for years over the question of the release of Iranian POWs. Does that not worry you?

[Shaykh Sa'd] Let us not forget that the Security Council has passed a resolution emphasizing that the POWs must be released. That means that these states have assumed the responsibility for the implementation of that resolution. They must keep up their pressure on the Iraqi regime which will find that it has no alternative but to let these POWs go home to their country.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Is there any truth in the rumors that infiltrators working for the Iraqi regime are operating inside Kuwait?

[Shaykh Sa'd] The security authorities have closely watched and are closely watching the activities of such subversive elements. We will not allow anyone in Kuwait, regardless of his nationality, to carry out any activity seen by the security authorities to be harmful to the country's security and public interests.

[AL-MAJALLAH] You have not answered our question yet. Do you have any information about the existence of subversive cells?

[Shaykh Sa'd] I do not deny that there are elements or agents working for the Baghdad regime, but I have said and I repeat that we are watching the activities of these elements.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Do you not fear that the existence of such cells may threaten the convening of the GCC summit in Kuwait?

[Shaykh Sa'd] As far as security is concerned, I do not believe that such elements pose a threat to the homeland or the public.

[AL-MAJALLAH] What about the shooting incidents which occurred in Kuwait in recent days?

[Shaykh Sa'd] Yes, there are some firearms, and attention will be given to following that up now that the national council has amended the firearms law. The security authorities will begin to implement that law and punish everyone who violates it.

[AL-MAJALLAH] But have you arrested anyone so far?

[Shaykh Sa'd] I have not been informed of any yet but I have great confidence in our security people and I hope to hear news of the arrest of some elements. I, however, believe that the shooting incidents were isolated cases. It is not in the national interest to exaggerate them, and we should not do that.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Do the defense agreements concluded between Kuwait and the Western states provide for the use of Kuwaiti territory without the Kuwaiti Government's approval in cases of war or military clashes?

[Shaykh Sa'd] The provisions of the agreement do not give these states the right to use Kuwaiti territory, space, or waters. These are defense cooperation agreements.

[AL-MAJALLAH] How could big powers benefit from defense agreements?

[Shaykh Sa'd] There is no such thing as big states and small states. Every state is important whatever its population.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Some Arab states accuse your government of being in a state of nervous convulsion affecting the logic of your foreign decisions. Is that true?

[Shaykh Sa'd] (laughing) Convulsion? Thanks be to God, we are in a state of relaxation, not convulsion at all. The aim of our long-term political, security, and economic decisions is to serve the interests and welfare of our country and people.

[AL-MAJALLAH] There is some talk about mediation for the restoration of ties between you and the Arab states which supported Iraq. Will you forgive these states?

[Shaykh Sa'd] I do not believe any Kuwaiti could forget what happened and overlook the positions these governments took against him. It is not easy to ask the Kuwaitis to restore everything to what it was before without strong justifications.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Iraq has recently accused you of violating its airspace more than once. Is your military activity against it still continuing?

[Shaykh Sa'd] It is not surprising that we hear such accusations from the Iraqi press. We are used to hearing such unfounded claims.

[AL-MAJALLAH] It has been claimed that you intend to carry out an important cabinet reshuffle. How true is that?

[Shaykh Sa'd] (Disapproving) Do you have any information?

[AL-MAJALLAH] Should we expect a reshuffle of your cabinet?

[Shaykh Sa'd] God knows, but generally speaking, a change could occur at any time in the future. Nothing is being considered at present, however.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Do you believe that the national council's sharp criticism of the government still falls within the realm of what is tolerable?

[Shaykh Sa'd] Everyone has his own way of arguing but the aim is cooperation between the constitutional and executive authorities. Voices may be raised but all in the service of the homeland and the public.

[AL-MAJALLAH] How do you view Iran's concept of security arrangements for the Gulf region?

[Shaykh Sa'd] Iran is a neighboring state and it exists in the region. We are interested in cooperating with it in the interest of more stability and security for all.

Palestinians, Jordanians May Qualify as Residents

AU1512183091 Paris AFP in English 1800 GMT 15 Dec 91

[Excerpt] Kuwait City, Dec 14 (AFP) — More than 35,000 Palestinians and Jordanians will have the right to reside in Kuwait if they can prove they did not collaborate during the Iraqi invasion, an immigration official said Sunday [15 December]. The official, declining to be named, dismissed widespread reports here that all Palestinians and Jordanians would be denied residence permits.

Outlining the conditions for applicants, he told AFP that permits would be granted if applicants could prove they did not collaborate with the Iraqis during the seven-month occupation, and if they could certify that they had a job.

Around 40,000 Palestinians are left in Kuwait out of the 400,000 who lived in the emirate before the Iraqi invasion of August 1990. Some have been deported while many have fled to Jordan, where they have citizenship.

Kuwait has set a deadline of December 31 for foreigners to renew their residence papers. [passage omitted]

Kuwaiti Nationality Rescinded From Fatah Official

LD1512134291 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1104 GMT 15 Dec 91

[Text] Kuwait, 15 Dec (KUNA)—The official magazine KUWAIT TODAY published a decree today by the amir stipulating the withdrawal of Kuwaiti nationality from Khalid al-Hasan, member of the Central Committee of the Palestinian movement, Fatah. The decree withdraws nationality from Khalid Muhammad Abu-al-Sa'id al-Hasan and those who acquired it from him by affiliation. Khalid al- Hasan is the official in charge of the PLO's external information and chairman of the Palestine National Council Foreign Affairs Committee. Considering that he has Kuwaiti nationality, Khalid al- Hasan did not issue any condemnation during the period of the hateful Iraqi occupation. He also did not make any statements during that period which indicate his rejection of this occupation.

Amir Receives Syrian Prime Minister, Delegation

NC1612122691 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 16 Dec 91

[Excerpts] At 11 [word indistinct] today, his highness the amir received Syrian Prime Minister engineer Mahmud al-Zu'bi and members of the accompanying delegation Dr. Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs; engineer Yusuf Ahmad, minister of transport; Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade; Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs, Finance Minister Khalid al-Mahayini; Haydar Buzu, minister of social affairs and labor; and Dr. Mustafa al-Haj 'Ali, Syrian ambassador to Kuwait, on the occasion of their visit to the country at an official invitation by Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister. [passage omitted]

Syrian Prime Minister engineer Mahmud al-Zu'bi arrived in the country at 1030 today for an official visit to Kuwait. He was accorded an official reception at Kuwait's international airport. Heir apparent Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al- Sabah led the reception party. Also taking part in the reception ceremony were Shaykh Salim al-Sabah, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad al-Jabir, minister of social affairs and labor; Dhari 'Abdallah al-'Uthman, minister of state for cabinet affairs; head of the escorting mission Nasir 'Abdallah al-Rawdan; Communications Minister Habib Hasan Jawhar Hayat; 'Abdallah Hasan al-Jarallah, minister of commerce and industry; a number of officials from the court of his highness the heir apparent and prime minister and the Foreign Ministry; ambassadors of the Damascus Declaration signatory countries accredited to the state of Kuwait; and members of the escort mission. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Prince 'Abdallah on Talks With Iran's President

Meeting Marked by 'Understanding'

PM1312120691 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 10 Dec 91 pp 1, 4

['Uthman al-'Umayr, Khalid al-Ma'ina report: "Prince 'Abdallah and Rafsanjani Hold Saudi-Iranian summit"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Second, the [Islamic] conference witnessed yesterday afternoon a Saudi-Iranian meeting when Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, crown prince and

head of the Kingdom's delegation, met with 'Ali Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Republic of Iran.

At the beginning of the meeting the Iranian president asked about Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd. Then the conversation between the two broached several topics, including the need for understanding and the importance of Islamic consistency between two states, which constitute the backbone of the Islamic nation.

As usual, Prince 'Abdallah was frank in his replies and clear in stating the importance of that position. Prince 'Abdallah, who was satisfied and expressed his happiness, was asked about the meeting. He said briefly: "It was a good meeting characterized by understanding. The Iranian-Saudi meeting was certainly important in an atmosphere in which Islamic action has been seen to be making a strong return.

Iran—which has agreed to enter through the gate of Islamic legitimacy—needs to deepen its relations with the Islamic world, and Saudi Arabia is qualified to host the conference for the second time, and if it applies to do so it might succeed." [passage omitted]

'Important Issues' Broached

PM1612103691 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 10 Dec 91 p 1

[Ayman Habib report: "After Summit Sideline Meeting His Highness Crown Prince and Rafsanjani Tell 'UKAZ: Our Meeting Fruitful and Positive in Service of Nation's Causes"]

[Excerpt] Dakar—In a statement to 'UKAZ His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz—Crown Prince, deputy prime minister, commander of the National Guard, and head of the kingdom's delegation to the sixth Islamic summit conference in Dakar—described his meeting with His Excellency Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani on the sidelines of the conference proceedings as a fruitful, positive, and constructive one that helps to bolster Islamic solidarity and serves the Islamic nation's causes.

In a statement to 'UKAZ his excellency the Iranian president said that his meeting with his highness the crown prince helps to bolster relations between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Iran. He also said: We broached important issues at that meeting and look forward to serving the Islamic nation better.

His highness the crown prince met with the Iranian president in a room adjacent to the conference room for 45 minutes. The proceedings of the sixth Islamic summit started in the Senegalese capital, Dakar, yesterday afternoon. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

Embassy Activities in Beirut To Resume

JN1612115991 Abu Dhabi United Arab Emirates Radio Network in Arabic 0930 GMT 16 Dec 91

[Excerpt] The United Arab Emirates [UAE] has decided to resume the activities of its embassy in Beirut after a hiatus of several years.

Mr. Muhammad Abdallah 'Amir al-Falaji, adviser at the Foreign Ministry, left for Beirut today to assume his duties as the acting charge d'affaires at the UAE Embassy in Lebanon.

The decision comes as a result of the stable situation in Lebanon and the legitimate authority's control of the situation after 15 years of violence. [passage omitted]

Republic of Yemen

Salih Interviewed on Gulf Ties, Middle East Talks

JN1512203091 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 15 Dec 91

["Text" of interview with Presidential Council Chairman 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, published "today" by the AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ newspaper; from the "News Reports" program—read by announcer]

[Excerpt] [AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ] Mr. President, there is a lot of discussion now about the border talks between Yemen and Oman. How far have these talks gone? Is it true that an agreement will be signed at the end of this year, as reports in Muscat have noted?

[Salih] The border talks with our brothers in Oman are proceeding well; there are no problems or complications of any kind. We have informed our brothers in Oman that we approve the signing of a border agreement, and we are waiting for them to set a date.

[AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ] Your esteemed government had some reservations concerning the dispute between Iraq and Kuwait, especially over the use of force. You have made that very clear. However, other parties have made Yemen pay the price of its adherence to its principles. The Gulf crisis has had some negative impact on Yemen. Do you have any regrets for the policy you pursued during the crisis?

[Salih] I think that there is no need for posing such a question because the answer will be a repetition of what we have already said. At any rate, we do not regret any position we take out of belief in our pan-Arab principles and concern for the interests of our Arab and Islamic nation.

[AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ] Mr. President, what is your position on the current Washington talks for peace in the Middle East, and how do you think progress can be made and a lasting peace achieved?

[Salih] We received an invitation from the U.S. Administration and the Soviet Government to participate in the multilateral negotiations about regional issues, within the framework of the peace process in the region. We in Yemen are looking forward to seeing the current talks attain positive results that guarantee a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace in the region on the basis of international resolutions and the legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab people, especially their right to self-determination and the establishment of their independent state on their national soil. Without a just solution to the Palestine question, stability and peace in the region will continue to be at stake.

[AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ] But do you think, Mr. President, that such a just peace can really be achieved? And if so, how, in your opinion, can the obstacles be overcome?

[Salih] We hope that the last decade of this century will see an end and solutions to all regional and international conflicts, and that peace, security, and stability overwhelm the earth. We hope that all good forces will work to find a just and peaceful solution to the Palestine question as a very important move toward bolstering world peace. We also hope that all parties, especially the cosponsors of the peace process in the region, apply pressure on and convince Israel to comply with the resolutions of international legitimacy, foremost of which are Resolutions 242 and 338, in a manner that guarantees the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

[AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ] Mr. President, I would like to ask about your position on the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC]. Do you wish to join the Council, given the fact that your country is a main, important state in the peninsula?

[Salih] The GCC was established a long time ago. We support any Arab grouping, whether the GCC, the Arab Maghreb Union, or the Arab Cooperation Council. Yemen supports any Arab grouping aimed at economic and cultural cooperation and committed to the principles and objectives of the Arab League. Concerning the second part of your question, Yemen is now a member of another bloc; namely, the Arab Cooperation Council, which groups Yemen, Egypt, Iraq, and Jordan.

[AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ] If Yemen was invited to join the GCC, would you give a positive response? Some people believe that the GCC cannot reach full strength unless all states in the peninsula and the Gulf join it.

[Salih] This will be discussed in due course. [passage omitted]

PFLP Delegation Concludes Visit, Departs 15 Dec

JN1512212591 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Dec 91

[Excerpt] Brother Abu-'Ali Mustafa [Mustafa al-Zibri], assistant secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], and the delegation accompanying him, left Sanaa today. During his visit to our country, he met with brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, and with officials from the General People's Congress and the Yemeni Socialist Party. [passage omitted]

Netherlands Grants 50 Million Guilders for Projects

JN1312072191 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Text] The minutes of the annual talks between our country and the Kingdom of the Netherlands were signed today in the presence of Planning and Development Minister Dr. Faraj Ghanim.

The YEMENI NEWS AGENCY—SABA' has learned that, as a result of these talks, the Netherlands Government decided to grant our country assistance totaling 50 million Netherlands guilders. The grant is to be earmarked for several joint Yemeni-Netherlands projects which are being implemented in the fields of water, sewage, basic health care, agriculture, and technical assistance in the field of statistics and data banks. The grant will also be used to finance the Environment Protection Council, and the Women and Development Program, and to support women in society, not to mention financing training in some technical domains which are related to development [words indistinct].

The agency also learned that with regard to future cooperation, the two sides agreed on implementing some joint projects in the future.

The minutes were signed on our country's side by brother Dr. Mutahhar al-Sa'idi, deputy planning and development minister. For the Netherlands side, the minutes were signed by [name indistinct], head of the Netherlands delegation which took part in the talks. [passage omitted]

It is to be recalled that the friendly Kingdom of the Netherlands has recently granted our country assistance totaling 15 million Netherlands guilders as part of its efforts to alleviate the effects of the return of expatriates. The assistance was earmarked for use in importing fertilizers, agricultural pesticides, and basic medicines, as well as vocational training equipment and supplies for some governorates in the republic.

Saddam Mocks Reports of Military Coup

JN1412190791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1715 GMT 14 Dec 91

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Dec (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has derided the West's repeated, daily talk about an expected military coup in Iraq.

He said: They are talking every day about an expected military coup in Iraq. We hear such and such official or newspaper saying that the coup is now imminent and that they are discussing, together with Israel, of course, how to help the coupists, who will be, as they claim, Iraqi military commanders.

Addressing a number of military commanders, the president said: We need people among you to prepare for a military coup, in which I will take part, so that the West may feel pleased.

The leader president added: They are speaking as though the question of a coup is now imminent; the Westerners and Israel are discussing how to help the coupists.

The leader president wondered sarcastically: What shall we do vis-a-vis this desire, which no one will fulfill for them?

He answered: Nothing remains except that we, you and I, arrange a military coup.

His excellency stressed: If there is something bad in our system, then we will be the first to stage the coup.

Deriding Bush and his administration, the leader president said: Let us write down the names of those who wish to join us in staging such a coup.

His excellency wondered: Can one stage a coup against oneself? As long as there are principles and people who believe in principles, this alone is sufficient to prevent any plot.

The remarks came today as leader President Saddam Husayn conferred Mother of Battles badges and medals of valor on a number of brave fighters from among the top officers in recognition of their distinguished jihad during the various chapters of the Mother of Battles.

During the ceremony, the leader president said that the United States realizes that it will not control the world unless it turns the Middle East into a subservient ring on the finger of its CIA. Those Americans and plotters knew that the Iraqis are on the top of the list of those who reject humiliation, slavery, and disgrace; therefore, they tried to strike at you since you are the first link in the chain. The turn of others will come after yours, by means of threats and intimidations. In fact, some of them will enter into the chicken coop even without threats; indeed, they have done so.

The leader president added: We will not submit and we will not enter into the chicken coop as long as we represent you. We represent the Iraqis constitutionally; we represent their spirit and aspirations. We also represent the spirit of Arabs and Muslims. Those who accept living in the chicken coop were created for that; however, we will only follow the path that satisfies you.

Addressing the people's masses, his excellency said: You have crossed to the other bank and you will not go back to the first bank.

Addressing the officers, he said: O you, who are comrades-in-arms and in position, have become an example for honorable, faithful military personnel throughout the world.

He added: All that they have destroyed in their evil aggression has been rebuilt with the help of God and with principles. Iraqis raised the banner of reconstruction as soon as the fire ceased on the front.

The president then reviewed the meaning of honoring the fighters who participated in the Mother of Battles.

Addressing the honored fighters, he said: You, the military, know more than others the meaning of the Mother of Battles in the battlefield, although the field of operations in the Mother of Battles was not restricted to the battlefront or to its natural extension, the people. The entire country was the battlefront during the chapter of aggression carried out by what they called the allies; the tyrants; or during the ensuing chapter of aggression, the chapter of treason and treachery. This was carried out primarily by Iran and supported by all of the allied states.

His excellency the president added: We want the medals of valor to be an announcement to the world that our military men fought in the cause of humanity as none has ever fought before. Military men around the world in future will have to prove that, humanly speaking as well as in terms of bravery, they can measure up to them. This is because your performance in action was not a mere show of courage; it was a fight for goals, slogans, and exalted humanitarian principles. The aggressors had meant to harm you.

His excellency the president continued: Thanks be to God that He made it possible for you to safeguard your dignity and your country. Your Armed Forces and people could keep their heads held high through their belief in God. They expressed this faith in lofty values and sacrifice in a way which now is common knowledge not only to Iraq but to the Arabs as well.

He referred to the honors bestowed in the al-Qadisiyah battles and how these honors progressed with time. He also referred to those bestowed in the Mother of Battles.

His excellency the president said: From the beginning of the Mother of Battles to the cease-fire with the allied forces—it was they who initiated the cease-fire—as well as during the chapter of treason and treachery, it was inevitable that men be honored in proportion to their performance. The General Command found that some men fought one battle, others two, four, 12, or more battles. Some even fought as many as 14 battles in the chapter of treason and treachery. Honors have been

bestowed to all those who took part in any of the chapters of the Mother of Battles. Some men participated in more engagements than others. However, this does not make the latter lesser men.

The president expressed his confidence that if such men, who enjoy the same kind of courage, have the chance to wage 12 battles, they would, in these 12 battles, play the same role their colleagues had played.

The president spoke about reports circulated by the West on preparations for a coup in Iraq. The president added: If there is something bad in our system, we will be the first to stage a coup against this system or against ourselves.

With the same sarcastic tone of the enemies, the president said: We stage a coup along with the commanders. Comrade 'Izzat [Ibrahim] will be the deputy commander of the coup, while I will be the commander of the coup. Let us start now writing down the names of those who would like to take part in such a coup so as to comfort the Western circles.

The president said: They, in the United States, in some Western circles, and among the local reactionaries, wonder how everything that happened has happened and a coup has so far not taken place.

The president wonders: How can a military coup take place? Why should a military coup take place? Can a man stage a coup against himself?

The president said: There are principles and there are people who believe in them; this is enough to prevent any plot. Because Iraq's history does not begin with the West's discovery of oil in the country, we cannot move as the West wishes. The things they are looking for may happen in some Gulf states, whose history starts with the discovery of oil. But even in those states, they will find some tribes with a history of dignity, courage, and a rejection of humiliation.

The president added: The West can find here and there a small, humiliated, lowly group that obeys the West in return for its help in preserving the group's wealth in the banks of America, the United Kingdom, and Switzerland, and in caring for its personal comfort. Such lowly people, however, are nonexistent in Iraq. We have not been created for such things.

Even if they continue to plot against us and to wage wars against us for another 1,000 years, the president added, they will not find in this generation such lowly people. This generation will not produce an agent or a humiliated servant for the West.

He added: This is a generation of knights. Each and every one of the Army commanders they are talking about has a weight as great as his actual weight multiplied by any number they choose to equal his spiritual, moral, and historical value. Every officer in our valiant Army holds many medals and badges reflecting his jihad in the history of battles. No Iraqi officer can turn himself into a servant of Bush.

He added: In order to put them at ease, we have to do nothing but write and broadcast a military coup communique, sign our names—not the names of other people—and then to tell them that these are the names.

The president said: The West comes out with a new issue every day. They think that by doing so, they will confuse the Iraqi market through rumors and empty illusions.

He said: The crossing was made a long time ago. They know this, and because they know it, they amassed 33 states to dare Baghdad. When the first bomb fell on the bank from which the crossing was made, the bank of the beginning, they thought that they could push us back. But they were disappointed. Thanks be to God, we now stand on the other secure bank and continue the march.

Referring to the economic blockade imposed on Iraq, he said: The blockade may not be lifted by a decision because the United States is like a wild horse or the horse that pulls carts. It is difficult for the others now to bring life back to their conscience enabling them to speak out.

President Saddam Husayn addressed the U.S. President by saying: That's enough, President of the United States. You have come to us saying that you want the Iraqi Army out of Kuwait. The Iraqi Army is now out of Kuwait, so why is there a blockade?

He added: I do not think that they can do this. It will also be difficult for us in the near future to find a person who will say yes to the truth and no to injustice. But the blockade will erode by itself and end.

He pointed out that the companies and people with vested interests will erode the blockade, as will the countries themselves, in view of their own interests. Some countries may even move because of their people's humanitarian values, which will enable them to discover the roots of the conspiracy, why it was staged against Iraq, and why all that happened has happened.

The president also said: They will reach a clear conclusion, and only then will they say that the United States wants to control the world. The United States realizes that it will not control the world unless it turns the Middle East into a subservient ring on the finger of its CIA. They knew that the Iraqis are on the top of the list of those who reject humiliation, slavery, and disgrace; therefore, they said: Let us strike the Iraqis because they are the strongest link in the chain. The turn of others will come after yours, by means of threats and intimidation. In fact, some of them will enter the chicken coup even without threats; indeed, they have done so.

He added: Undoubtedly, they, as well as you, know them by name. In the West, they say that some of them, who have not yet been tamed, will enter the chicken coup as soon as they are ordered to do so.

Addressing the audience and all of the Iraqis, President Saddam Husayn said: They threatened, intimidated, and

ordered you many times. It is no secret that as long as we represent you, we will not bow and will not enter the chicken coop.

He added: If we still were countrymen, we might be different. But the issue has become more complicated. It is like writing in indelible ink. Our issue has become indelible. It has become a difficult one and, from now on, it will also be difficult for us to become accustomed to bad things or to coexist with bad things, as a popular saying puts it. Constitutionally, we represent the Iraqis and their spirit and aspirations, as well as the spirit of the Arabs and Muslims. Therefore, we cannot accept the wrong and we will not agree to be like chickens, which enter the chicken coop as soon as they are ordered to do so.

The leader president added: As for those who accept this for themselves, they were created to be this way. The people who created them wanted them to be the kind that accepts humiliation. They came to power not as representatives of their peoples but as representatives of oil companies. Therefore, they must fear those who created them and who made them take power. We, however, cannot be like this; we can only follow the path that pleases you—the principled men of excellent character, who have dignity and zeal, and the glorious, chivalrous Iraqi women, who rise above trifles and build the foundations of dignity, glory, and pride for themselves and the future of their sons.

He went on to say: I repeat: We have crossed and we can never go back to the other bank. I have nothing to add after what happened on the night of 16-17 January 1991 and what happened later. I do not think that anything greater than what happened can possibly happen. We have indeed crossed.

Leader President Saddam Husayn added: Some Westerners hold conferences, claiming that they are studying ways to develop Third World nations. However, they came to fight Iraq, which is a Third World nation, to assassinate its progress. Look to what extent you have exposed their falsity; you have not left a single false slogan unexposed. As you expose their falsity, your victory is gaining in greatness and in depth. This is because the reality, scope, and effectiveness of great principles can only be discovered and verified when the falsity of counter slogans challenging them is revealed.

His excellency the president stressed that all the facts have now come to light. Our Iraqi people are still in good shape for all the material and human losses the nation has sustained. The truth will become even more apparent, when, God willing, more light is shed on the injustices of the tyrant.

He added: I am not saying that the material side does not count. What I am trying to say is that the faithful are bound to prevail when there is a balance between the material and the spiritual. Those who give precedence to the material over the spiritual are bound to fail.

He indicated that if the material side is not deployed to serve dignified, civilized, and valuable social functions, then it will become destructive to the human being, to society, and to peoples. On the other hand, when the material side is geared to the service of the values in which we believe, it then will promote prosperity and lead society in the right direction.

He said that autocratic tyrants know that whatever material progress Iraq has attained has been made possible by the will of this generation.

He added: As for those who had led the people by the nose, they have not achieved anything of which to speak. To give an example: The road from Karkuk—where oil fields are located—passing through [word indistinct] district and [word indistinct] up to the Syrian border, remained an unpaved dirt road. They used to carelessly surface it with black crude to keep the dust from blowing, thus keeping it passable on rainy days. The reason why they used black crude or crude oil was because the cost was to be borne by money belonging to the Iraqis.

He noted: Although this road is important for the oil industry and for exports, it was not paved until we nationalized the IPC [Iraq Petroleum Company] oil company in 1972.

He pointed out that those exploiters did not pave a single road in Iraq; they continued to haphazardly surface the road they needed with Iraq's oil. This is their true nature; they drive their poisonous teeth into any people or any nation. How many years passed between the time foreigners were given privileges and 1972?

The president said: All that they had destroyed during their evil aggression we built while armed with God's assistance and the principles in which we believe. Those who are now reconstructing what was destroyed by the aggressors are Iraq's youths, engineers, and workers. The moment the guns fell silent on the battlefront—which is your front, O officers—the Iraqis raised the banner on the reconstruction front.

He added: Every factory, bridge, dam, road, and link that was destroyed in our lofty structure is now being reconstructed by the Iraqis. In fact, they are able to build better than this. Thus, the rancor of the evildoers will escalate against us. This is the truth. So, what can we do other than this?

He asks: Shall we tell the Iraqis not to build so as to satisfy the evildoers just as you and I are now discussing how we can plan a military coup to please them?

President Saddam Husayn quotes God's saying: But it is possible that ye dislike a thing which is good for you. [Koranic verse]

His excellency said: Your country has crossed to the other bank, and you will not go back to the first bank. You,

comrades-in-arms and comrades in [shared] stands, have become an example for the honest, faithful military everywhere.

The president said: When the Soviet soldier, for example, wants to invoke Soviet, or even Russian, nationalism, he has nothing to refer to in the modern age except the Iraqi model. Even U.S. military men consider you their honorable model.

The president addressed the Iraqis, saying: God gave our enemies something. God assists good people as well as bad people; each group is given something for a certain purpose. He gives to good people to reward them, and He gives to bad people to test their conceit. They continued to attack you with everything they had, but from a distance, for a month and a half; they continued to avoid confrontation with you. They did not consider all this time to be a part of the war period; they termed the whole war as preliminary shelling. Imagine, preliminary shelling with the highest war technology continuing for 45 days!

The president said: As a matter of fact, it was a vicious war from a distance. They feared a direct clash with you. While our preliminary shelling in the major battle of al-Faw [against Iran] continued for only 55 minutes, the preliminary shelling of the 33 allied states continued for a month and a half.

The president added: It is not a war in the conventional sense. It is a mobilization of armies. Thirty-three states with a population of more than 1 billion attacked 18 million people. It is not a war; it is God's will. God Almighty wanted you to serve as an example of steadfastness and ability. He wanted to return humanity to the right path after it had deviated, at this stage, from the course that leads to noble values.

The president continued: Nevertheless, your people are all right, your nation is all right, and humanity is all right. Your message has reached all mankind.

He added: When a woman travels from Germany to Iraq and decides to die in defense of your human slogans and the children of Iraq—when this lady chooses a slow death and not an on-the-spot death in battle—then this woman is seeking to emulate your endurance by deciding to die from hunger until they lift the blockade imposed on you. Does this not mean that your message has reached humanity? Can there be any greater happiness than that which one feels when one is certain that his message has reached the farthest parts of the world?

He added: Your message has reached German, U.S., Soviet, and French citizens; and before that, it reached Arab citizens and Muslims everywhere. An Italian poet even composed a poem singing about your glories and positions.

The leader president continued: Woe to those doing injustice; woe to them, if only the world knew facts as they really are and the reality of the crime committed against Iraq.

He added: If this happens, there will not only be one or 10 individuals representing humanity. Humanity will choose several million, maybe tens or hundreds of millions of Arabs, Muslims, and people of other nations. Woe to them when the whole world, or most of it, discovers the reality of the crime they have committed and when all this Zionist-led false media clamor is shattered. Then you Iraqis will be held in higher esteem, the scope of your message will broaden, and their embarrassment will be greater and more severe.

His excellency the president said: May men be saluted by God. I will not say that there will be further battles for those who missed out on previous ones. I wish to God, though, that we will not see more battles. Comrades and men, and all men in the Armed Forces: I tell you that those who have been honored in the mother of battles will be luminaries and that one chapter alone in the mother of battles will mark a whole history.

We place high hopes in you. Your people fervently hope that you will be able to build your armed forces into a solid structure in scientific, technical, and ideological terms. You should not think that the sublime goal of ideological building—the building of faith and man, and the awareness of and belief in the message—is a matter for the Moral Guidance Department to take care of; indeed, this task falls on your shoulders.

His excellency the president added that for a fighter ideological education cannot be overstated. Ideological education is the driving force behind his every move and thought and, as such, must be the concern of all of you, even if it is handled by a special department.

May God salute you and bless your families who have, since you were of a tender age, instilled in you the spirit that one cannot do without in things that matter in later years.

His Excellency President Saddam Husayn concluded his speech to his officers with the following invaluable piece of advice:

Training, training, training. More important is preparation, preparation, and preparation.

The honoring ceremony was attended by Staff General 'Izzat Ibrahim, deputy chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces; Staff Lieutenant General 'Ali Husayn al-Majid, RCC member and defense minister; Mr. Hatim Hamdan al-'Azzawi, head of the Presidential Office; and Staff Lieutenant General Iyad Futayh al-Rawi, chief of staff.

Editorials React to Speech

JN1512094491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0720 GMT 15 Dec 91

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Dec (INA)—In their editorials today, Iraqi newspapers affirm that the "mother of battles" has shown the entire world that the enemies would be deluding themselves if they were to think that they could

push the Iraqi people back to square one. This historic battle, the papers note, also confirmed that the aggressive alliance is unable to terrorize the steadfast Iraqi people, break their free and enlightened will, or blemish their honor and national pride despite their illegal blockade and all their pressures and interventions.

The papers AL-THAWRAH, AL-JUMHURIYAH, AL-QADISIYAH, and AL-'IRAQ affirm that the new delusion harbored by the West and their allies strongly shows the great loss sustained by the enemies led by the deluded and arrogant Bush administration.

The Iraqi papers' editorials comment on the historic and important speech His Excellency President Saddam Husayn addressed yesterday to millions of Iraqis and Arabs when he decorated a group of courageous Iraqi Army men with the Mother of Battles medals and badges of honor.

In its editorial, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH, mouthpiece of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, says: It goes without saying that a highbred people such as the Iraqi people, whose civilization dates back 6,000 years, led by an audacious knight like Saddam Husayn, who inherited all of the forefathers' traits and genuine and noble values—cannot accept a life of humiliation. The paper maintains that the Iraqi people, who are willing to face death rather than accept humiliation, will neither retreat nor be brought to their knees regardless of how far they might go in their crimes and evil and aggressive schemes.

Concluding its editorial, the paper says: The Iraqis have triumphed over the armies of 33 states, because they exposed the aggressors' slogans, tore apart all of their dazzling covers, and showed them as they really are before all mankind. The Iraqis' victory will continue to grow, expand, take root. The paper notes that the growth, expansion, and enhancement of this victory will be proportionate to the discoveries the Iraqis make regarding the falseness of their enemies and the deceitful and false claims which they vainly wish to see fulfilled.

For its part, the AL-JUMHURIYAH editorial says: The fact that the U.S. media, which are fed by intelligence services, are emitting poison by propagating rumors reflecting sick wishful thinking on the possible occurrence of a coup against the people's rule and authority in Iraq shows that the U.S. Administration, which found itself compelled to seek recourse to such public conspiratorial tactics, has declared that it is impossible to make Iraq budge from its firm principles, tear apart its people's will, humiliate its people, and rob them of their freedom, dignity, sovereignty, unity, and independence.

AL-JUMHURIYAH asserts that the people, by choosing their historic leader Saddam Husayn, have in fact chosen to vindicate their historic program of safeguarding their dignity, constructing their own cultural model, preserving their unity and sovereignty, and acquiring limitless ability to head for a bright future.

In its editorial, the newspaper AL-'IRAQ says that President Saddam Husayn's speech is full of deep and great meanings as well as eloquent lessons concerning the impact of this eternal battle on the Iraqis, the sons of the Arab nation, and all good people in the world.

The paper adds that the Iraqis are proud to hear the president say with firm confidence and true conviction that the Iraqis are capable of repulsing all waves of aggression and all wars for another thousand years because the people of the Mother of Battles will, generation after generation and time after time, continue to maintain the eternal heritage and the bright record scored by the legions of truth and embroidered with the blood of the most noble.

The paper emphasizes that President Saddam Husayn's words and phrases were sharper than the edge of the sword as he scoffed at the falsehoods of the enemy trumpets and their sick dreams.

In its editorial, which is devoted to President Saddam Husayn's address yesterday, AL-QADISIYAH says: The U.S. idol and its allies among the Atlantic, Zionist, and traitor Arab rulers, are acting like an ostrich, which buries its head in the sand, when dealing with the unique phenomenon of leader Saddam Husayn. He is not a traditional ruler seeking profits, as the lowly slave rulers are doing, for him to be affected by allusions to a military coup. He is a veteran historic leader whose people have granted him all confidence. He is a leader tested under difficult circumstances and in the Mother of Battles.

AL-QADISIYAH, mouthpiece of the Iraqi Defense Ministry, notes the president's firm answer to the falsehoods of the spiteful enemies when he confidently and sarcastically joked with an elite group of military commanders after presenting them with badges of the Mother of Battles and medals of valor, proposing that they stage with him a military coup to comfort the others.

The paper says: Let the infamous hear the voice of truth, the voice of the valiant leader Saddam Husayn, and know for sure how strong and solid is his unique relationship with his people and heroic Armed Forces. The proud Iraqis have been building the country since the moment the cease-fire was announced, and they will continue to do so.

Coup Reports 'Ridiculed' by Dailies

JN1612100191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0718 GMT 16 Dec 91

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Dec (INA)—Two Iraqi newspapers today ridiculed the U.S. Administration's hopes for a military coup in Iraq.

The newspapers assert that the Iraqis and Saddam Husayn are one, and that since the dawn of 17 July 1986 until this moment, Saddam Husayn has remained the man of a continuing revolution, in accordance with his civilizational and pan-Arab plan.

AL-QADISIYAH says that since the outbreak of the 17-30 July Revolution and the emergence of the Saddam Husayn phenomenon, Western circles, primarily the United States, have been looking for a way or a means to destroy this phenomenon or to contain it within the U.S. chicken coop.

In an article published today under the headline "Saddam Husayn's Coup and Bush's New Troubles," the paper says: For 23 years as leader of Iraq's contemporary history, Saddam Husayn has been the unforeseen element of surprise for the expectations of Western, U.S., and Zionist circles.

The paper adds that throughout that period, these circles have been hatching plots and intrigues hoping to peddle their schemes and objectives in Iraq. However, when they failed to incite the domestic front, including the option of a military coup before that, they resorted to other methods, foremost among these [sentence incomplete as received].

The paper explains that the eight-yea. war that was imposed on Iraq by Iran was one of the most dangerous chapters in the conspiracy targeting Iraq as represented in the phenomenon of Saddam Husayn, especially given the nature of the slogans raised then by Khomeyni and his regime.

The paper points out that Iraq won the war and Saddam Husayn remained a lofty symbol, particularly since he has worked miracles for two decades, manifested in real construction and development, as well as in other areas.

The paper adds: When the cold war ended in the collapse of the USSR and America's feeling that it has a unilateral grip on the entire world through what Bush called the "new world order", America did not find anyone in the whole world but Saddam Husayn to antagonize and to think of as an impregnable fortress in the way of its peddling its schemes and objectives in Iraq and the world.

The paper stresses that Saddam Husayn, who constituted an uncalculated surprise for the Western circles, has appeared on television to expose all Bush's ideas and dreams when he mockingly said that he himself and the military commanders will stage this coup so as to get rid of the West.

Concluding, the paper says what Bush does not and will never understand is that the Iraqis have crossed to the other bank and will not return to the first bank. Had he understood all these issues, he would never have thought what he is now thinking and hoping to realize at a time his popularity is deteriorating under the hammer of the delayed problems, while Saddam Husayn is daily adding new assets of amity and loyalty.

AL-THAWRAH says it is not surprised by the schemes of military coups against revolutionary systems in the Third World. It says Washington is now trying them today after it tested many of its weapons in the field of direct confrontations with Iraq.

In its editorial today, the paper of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party goes on to say that the one thing the enemies are not aware of and will never understand is that we are really coupists, but not in the way they are advocating. We are coupists in our Ba'thist faith, which was founded along the way for eliminating the negative situation and rejuvenating life through rejection and innovation as a practical revolutionary approach for building the reality we are seeking.

It emphasizes that what Washington is dreaming of, and the way in which it plans its coups in the Third World is farfetched when it comes to Iraq and the relationship between the leadership and the masses.

It stresses the new given facts created by the relationship between the Iraqis and their leadership, and the dropping of the word coup by the Iraqis from the Iraqi political life. It says there are other concepts that are mixed with our blood and characterized with our sacrifices that we daily struggle for and work together behind our leader Saddam Husayn in order to accomplish and realize.

In conclusion, the paper says: We have crossed to the other bank, which marks the new Iraqi determination which has become a prominent faith and approach that is living in this giant experiment and on which the attempts and miserable dreams of the enemies will flounder.

Senior Officers Plotting Coup Reportedly Executed

NC1412152791 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1413 GMT 14 Dec 91

[Text] A number of senior army officers are being executed by the Saddamist regime within the context of the 'Aflaqite terrorism policy. In the past few days, people's enemy foolhardy Saddam and his rotten gang executed a large group of our people and senior officers. Among these officers were Staff Major General Mundhir 'Abd-al-Rahman Ibrahim and Major General Faysal [words indistinct].

In another development, the defeated 'Aflaqites (?placed) their remnants in Baghdad on maximum alert. Their failing control positions and vital units have been doubled on the main roads and intersections. The measure comes after the deterioration of the situation in Baghdad and the 'Aflaqites' fear of the fierce escalation of our uprising these days.

The officers executed by Saddam's henchmen were planning to carry out a military coup to oust the rotten head of the 'Aflaqites. Most of the officers belong to our rebellious tribes.

Spokesman on UN Report Regarding Iran-Iraq War

JN1312182391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1735 GMT 13 Dec 91

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Dec (INA)—An official Foreign Ministry spokesman has emphasized that dubious deals

struck under the guise of the United Nations and its agencies and officials cannot obscure historical facts.

Responding to a recent report by the UN secretary general about the settlement of the Iraq-Iran dispute, the spokesman told INA that Perez de Cuellar had made personal judgments with absolutely no legal value and that his report only speaks for him personally. The following is the text of the official spokesman's statement:

On 9 December 1991, the UN secretary general released a second report on UN Security Council Resolution 598 of 1987 regarding the settlement of the Iraq-Iran dispute. In this report, he addressed Paragraph 6 of the said resolution, which calls for him to explore in consultations with Iraq and Iran the tasking of a neutural body to pinpoint responsibility for the dispute and then to report its findings to the UN Security Council.

The UN secretary general's report contains personal judgments. The report, therefore, has absolutely no legal value and only represents Mr. Perez de Cuellar's personal opinion. His conduct and practices are now common knowledge. In the past, he adopted positions to please the Iranian regime with the objective of striking suspect deals favoring Western parties, particularly the United States.

The manner in which this report was produced proves this fact. On 26 November 1991, the UN secretary general issued a report about Resolution 598, a report which failed to address Paragraph 6 of the resolution, thus causing surprise among diplomatic circles at the United Nations.

A few days after the report was released, the UN secretary general issued a unilateral report about Paragraph 6. Obviously, the date of its release was linked to the deal that Mr. Perez de Cuellar had struck with the Iranian regime to obtain freedom for the American hostages held in Lebanon. The report was issued following the release of the last U.S. hostage in Lebanon on 4 December.

This deal was struck at the expense of the principles of international legitimacy and integrity, which should have been observed in dealing with a very serious issue like that of the facts pertaining to the Iraq-Iran dispute.

Contrary to the contents of that premeditated report, Iraq proved with historical facts supported by legal arguments based on the provisions of the UN Charter and international law that it is the Iranian regime that began the aggression against Iraq with all means, which insisted on continuing the war, and which rejected for over eight years all of the Security Council resolutions calling for an end to the aggression, including Resolution 598. This resolution was approved by the Iranian regime only after it had suffered a comprehensive military defeat. These facts are closely related to the subject, which was deliberately ignored by Perez de Cuellar's report.

The spokesman said: The only positive point in Perez de Cuellar's report is the correct conclusion that there is no use pursuing that paragraph. It is historically known that the said paragraph was included in Resolution 598 to be used as a tool and a cover for entering into bargains with Iran's regime to restore the relationship between that regime and the United States. The Iranian reaction to the UN secretary general's statements clarifies this fact. The Iranian regime hastened to exploit it in order to cover up the hostage deal it had struck with the United States through Perez de Cuellar, as well as recent reports confirming that it had received weapons from the Zionist entity with the agreement of the Reagan and Bush administration.

The spokesman said that the facts of history cannot be concealed by making suspect deals, which are being arranged under the cover of the United Nations, its organs, and its officials. This report, the spokesman added, gives another piece of evidence of the loss of credibility in that organization, which is being used by the United States and its allies to achieve their political and intelligence aims.

Iran's 'Media Clamor' Over POW Release Scored

JN1412091991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0827 GMT 14 Dec 91

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Dec (INA)—The newspaper BABIL accuses the Tehran government of maneuvering and conducting cheap propaganda campaigns to conceal its hostile intentions toward Iraq and procrastinate over the achievement of permanent peace in the region.

In an editorial published today, the paper says that the second batch of Iraqis repatriated had been released by the Iranian authorities amid a tendencious and rabid media clamor despite the fact that it was mostly made up citizens and military personnel who were compelled under the circumstances of riots and anti-Iraq aggression to seek refuge in Iran. Only a few prisoners of war, the paper notes, were among those repatriated. The paper stresses that through this media campaign, the Tehran government sought to circumvent facts and dilute the key issue over which it has been procrastinating since the cease-fire went into effect on 8 August 1988.

BABIL regrets the fact that Tehran uses media trumpets outside Iranian borders, "trumpets notorious for their hostility toward the peoples struggling for independence," to help it peddle its schemes and conceal its hostile position toward Iraq and its people.

Concluding its editorial, BABIL says: The media clamor created by Iran through the release of a group of persons compelled to seek refuge in its territory cannot obliterate the ill intentions of its rulers toward Iraq—the intentions that they have been nursing since they assumed power.

UN Team Encounters Protesters During Inspections

AU1412191491 Paris AFP in English 1852 GMT 14 Dec 91

[Text] Baghdad, Dec 14 (AFP) — United Nations inspectors ran into Iraqi protesters as they searched for documents on ballistic missiles, but they had free access to all weapons and research sites, the U.N. team leader said here Saturday.

Colonel Vigor Aabrech said his group, which arrived last Monday to look for missiles that Iraq may not previously have declared, made surprise inspections of sites in western Iraq and the capital. "I have nothing to complain about on cooperation," he said, adding that the team had carried out its mission by road and helicopter.

A peaceful protest occurred Wednesday as the inspectors looked for documents near an Education Ministry building in Baghdad, he told reporters. "Documents can tell a lot of things about procedures, plans," Aabrech said

The ruling Baath party newspaper AL-THAWRAH said the inspection team had visited the ministry building itself in a bid "to involve itself in a new drama that will coincide with the U.N. Security Council review of sanctions against Iraq." AL-THAWRAH said the team members were "comrades" of David Kay, an American who led an earlier U.N. nuclear inspection team which was detained for four days in a Baghdad car park after it refused to hand over Iraqi documents it had seized.

But despite the protest, Aabrech said Iraq had cooperated in full. His 29-member team, which is due to leave Tuesday, was "not prevented from going any place."

U.N. resolutions passed after Iraq's defeat in the Gulf war early this year called for the elimination of the country's weapons of mass-destruction.

The Security Council is to review the trade embargo that was imposed on Iraq in August 1990 for its invasion of Kuwait.

Commentary on Syrian Participation at Peace Talks

JN1212211091 Baghdad Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Brothers: Listen to this: Had Syria wanted to restore the Golan alone, it would have achieved this; but Syria wants to liberate all the occupied Arab territories. This is not an off-color joke. These are the words of the man named Muhammad Salman, information minister of the regime of Hafiz al-Asad.

We do not know whom these petty people are trying to fool? Are they trying to fool millions of Arabs, or probably to fool themselves? Hafiz al-Asad ran toward Bush and Baker, begged with tears in his eyes, and opened the way to negotiations. Before that, he practically participated in the traitorous U.S.-Zionist aggression against Arab, steadfast Iraq. He has also contributed toward besieging our people in Iraq, and for more than 20 years continued to render services to Zionists, whether by liquidating the Palestinian revolution in Syria, slaughtering our people in the Palestinian camps in Lebanon, fragmenting the revolution, or fighting the PLO.

All these acts by Hafiz al-Asad were meant to prove his good intentions toward Zionism, in the hope that the Zionist entity will give him back the Golan. However, the recent Zionist decision, even amid the atmosphere of negotiations, indicated that the Golan is unnegotiable and that the annexation of the Syrian Heights to the Zionist entity is irreversible. More than that, when the settlement negotiations began, the Zionists started to build new settlements in the Golan.

So, to whom is the traitorous minister of information lying? He had remained silent for a long time, and when he spoke he uttered blasphemy. [proverb] But we know that the unyielding people of Syria will think of a way to suppress the voice of those who betrayed and sold them, and betrayed their national and pan-Arab cause.

U.S.-Israeli 'Disagreement' at Talks 'Ridiculed'

JN1512103591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0830 GMT 15 Dec 91

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Dec (INA)—AL-THAWRAH has ridiculed claims of disagreement between Washington and Tel Aviv at the settlement talks.

In an article today, the paper explains that Washington, which extends to the Zionists money, weapons, and bread, can employ this aid in pressuring the Zionist entity, if it was concerned about its interests in the region.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Washington will not apply pressure on the Zionists because it takes what it wants from the Arabs for nothing.

The paper stresses that the Zionist entity has not lost its job and role in the U.S.-imperialist plan. Those Arabs who opted for a settlement do not use pressure, some because they do not want to, while others are not in a position to do so.

AL-THAWRAH stresses that the Bush administration acts freely in the region, which has become part of the U.S. political and military area of influence. What gives it support is the fact that the Arab governments rallying around it and linked with it, fear the people rather than the Zionist entity threat. The security of these governments is linked with the security of the Zionist entity, and the security of the U.S. presence.

RCC Amends Kurdish Legislative Council Law

JN1512125091 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 15 Dec 91

["Text" of Revolution Command Council's Decision No. 437 "amending the Kurdistan Autonomous Region's Legislative Council Law No. 56 of 1980" issued on 10 December]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. In the name of the people. The Revolution Command Council [RCC]. Decision No. 437. Decision date 4 Jumada al-Akhirah 1412 Hegira, corresponding to 10 December 1991.

In accordance with the provisions contained in Paragraph A of Article 42 of the Constitution, the Revolution Command Council has decided to issue the following decision No. 437 of 1991.

Law amending the Kurdistan Autonomous Region's Legislative Council Law No. 56 of 1980.

Article 1. Item C of Paragraph 1 of Article 15 of the Kurdistan Autonomous Region's Legislative Council Law No. 56 of 1980 is revoked. It is to be replaced by the following: C. With faith in Iraq's independence, territorial integrity, sovereignty, and national unity. Furthermore, he must appreciate and take pride in Iraq's heritage and glorious history, as well as the accomplishments scored by national struggle, especially under the 14 July 1958 revolution and the great 17-30 July 1968 revolution. Additionally, he should not take a position hostile to the Arab nation's legitimate aspirations to consummate its liberation or to its quest for achieving Arab solidarity and unity.

Article 2. This law is to be announced in the official gazette.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, chairman of the Revolution Command Council

It is to be recalled that Item C of Paragraph 1 of Article 15 of the Kurdistan Autonomous Region's Legislative Council Law No. 56 of 1980 reads as follows: With faith in the leading role of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, and the principles and objectives of the glorious 17-30 July 1968 revolution. Likewise, he must have an outstanding role in realizing these principles and objectives.

Barzani on Saudi Proposal for Government-in-Exile

JN1312153591 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1500 GMT 13 Dec 91

[Text] Saudi Arabia has proposed to the Iraqi Kurds that a government-in-exile be formed. It would be headquartered in Riyadh and incorporate other elements opposing Saddam Husayn's regime. This was announced by an adviser to Kurdish leader Mas'ud Barzani, who pointed out that the Kurds doubt that the initiative will succeed in obtaining UN recognition.

According to Kurdish sources, Saudi Arabia is trying to organize a meeting for Iraqi opposition movements in Riyadh in early 1992.

Clashes Between Regime, Opposition-Kurdish Forces

Attack on Regime Forces; Over 43 Captured

NC1412163091 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1413 GMT 14 Dec 91

[Text] Our brave revolutionaries carried out a lightening attack on Saddam's defeated remnants in retaliation for the criminal practices of Saddam and his henchmen against our people and to avenge the heroes and women of our families which have come under the brutal 'Aflaqi bombardment in steadfast [location indistinct]. Numerous Saddamist mercenaries were killed and more than 43 were captured in this popular attack.

In another development, the 'Aflaqite remnants have taken up position on the eastern side of Diyala Governorate, especially on (Mrwa'i) Mountain for fear of our mujahidin's strikes, and cut off the bridges on Diyala River. These remnants were ousted from the city of (Salar).

It is noteworthy that criminal Saddam directed his failed guns on civilians, subjecting the city's innocent women and children to the brutal 'Aflaqite bombardment, after his defeats before the revolutionaries of (Salar). A state of (?panic) still grips the henchmen of people's enemy Saddam in the wake of the painful strikes at them by our blessed uprising's units.

In another development, to (?disperse) the malicious Saddamist elements, our popular forces in Zakho recently arrested two armed women who were sent by the failed 'Aflaqites' intelligence authorities to spy on our people. Two weeks ago, a Saddamist group was arrested in [location indistinct]. The group comprised personnel carrying pistols and hand grenades who were infiltrating our revolutionaries. After ascertaining their criminal Saddamist (?identity), our heroic revolutionaries inflicted a just punishment on them. [Words indistinct] in this issue, the crumbling Saddamist regime [words indistinct] all its methods [words indistinct] its crumbling situation. All these attempts, however, have been aborted by the blessed popular uprising's heroes.

Fighting in Marshlands Reported

NC1312153791 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1420 GMT 13 Dec 91

[Text] To support the position of the sons of our Kurdish people in rebellious northern Iraq and in solidarity with our popular opposition groups throughout our homeland, men of the blessed uprising in the marshland areas in the south are standing up to the 'Aflaqite terrorism to deter it and protect our brave tribes' sons from the criminal Saddam and his oppressive executioners.

In the past few days, our heroic mujahdin launched an attack against 'Aflaqite dens in the al-'Adl area. During a

two-hour clash, our mujahidin inflicted the following losses on the failed Saddam's executioners:

1. Destroyed the directorate of Saddam's defeated police.
2. Destroyed the den of the so-called 'Aflaqite justice organization.
3. Burned two vehicles, and killed or injured well over 30 of Saddam's mercenaries.

The sons of our people will continue their heroic revolution against Saddam's grudge until the final victory which is near, God willing.

Helicopter Downed in Marshlands Clash

NC1412174591 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1605 GMT 14 Dec 91

[Text] Government forces comprising the 1st and 18th Divisions, the Republican Guard Adnan Division, and other divisions on 10 December attacked the southern marshlands where some southern opposition forces, who sought refuge in the area out of reach of the regime's repression, are stationed. According to reports from the south, the opposition forces repulsed the attack and inflicted huge losses on the government forces. The opposition forces also succeeded in downing a helicopter.

Population Warned of CW Attack

NC1612140491 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1300 GMT 16 Dec 91

[Text] The forces of the defeated tyrant have recently carried out a number of merciless military operations in the villages and populated areas of the southern marshlands. Over the past two months, the regime used military means and an economic blockade to force the inhabitants of the al-Majarr al-Kabir in Maysan out of their villages. The regime then ordered its forces to conduct wide-scale operations to exterminate those who stayed behind in the villages and the surrounding areas. Deadly weapons of all types were used in the attacks and the inhabitants were warned that chemical weapons would be used against them.

1,123 Kurdish Families Return Home to al-Ta'mim

JN1512142391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1335 GMT 15 Dec 91

[Text] Karkuk, 15 Dec (INA)—Kurdish citizens returning to their residential areas in the al-Ta'mim Governorate of northern Iraq have praised President Saddam Husayn's noble step to cancel the extraordinary decisions pertaining to the governorate; to facilitate the return of these citizens to their home areas; and to ease the measures that apply to the selling, buying, and owning of real estate by citizens regardless of their race and religion.

During a gathering held in the governorate, they stressed that the cancellation of such extraordinary measures will enhance the stability and security being enjoyed by the region.

Al-Ta'mim Governor Yasir Hasan Sultan told INA that 1,123 families, which includes 6,095 people, have returned to the governorate as of yesterday.

The governor also said that popular and official committees are receiving the returnees, meeting their needs, and facilitating the return of government employees and students to their departments and schools respectively. Organs of the Trade Ministry in the governorate are continuing to distribute food to these families and to organize ration cards for them.

'Izzat Ibrahim Visits Ba'th Party Branches

Supervises al-Basrah By-Elections

JN1312132491 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 13 Dec 91

[Text] Comrade 'Izzat Ibrahim, assistant secretary of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command, has attended and supervised the by-elections for the Ba'th Party al-Basrah Branch. He stressed that the militant and jihad history of valiant al-Basrah, the city of all cities and the forward defense line for great Iraq throughout its long history, is a precious part of the culture of all Iraqis and the Arabs and Muslims in general.

Comrade 'Izzat Ibrahim added: Comrades, you must preserve al-Basrah's culture and history, which lives in the hearts of the Iraqis and the Arabs, in order to keep al-Basrah proud and lofty and keep the people of al-Basrah proud and lofty. This can only be achieved through the absolute belief that our triumph was an established historical value and that we were, God willing, victorious in all the chapters we have fought, and will fight against the enemy in defense of our territory, sovereignty, and the future of our generations. And also through the absolute faith that we will triumph if the enemies were to driven by their dark intentions to enter into further pages and chapters against us anywhere and at any time.

The comrade assistant secretary of the Regional Command said: The blockade, which the enemies have been imposing on us for 17 months officially and for over 3 years in practice, represents the enemies' desperate and (?mad) attempt to block Iraq's march toward the summit of glory and to deprive the nation's masses of their mujahid pioneer, represented by Iraq and the Iraqis, in order to keep the Arab nation weak, fragmented, and backward. But, damn them; this they will never achieve. The wounds that were inflicted on Iraq's children, women, and old people were the price for the true values they hold and embrace in their hearts. These wounds will, God willing, heal with the achievement of the great, noble objectives. The door will then be open for them to

the glorious future and the decent, dignified life, the only kind of life they and their forefathers have known throughout the ages.

The conference was attended by Comrade Muhammad Zimam, member of the Regional Command and official in charge of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party organizations in the south; the governor of al-Basrah governor; and the comrade secretary of the Ba'th Party al-Basrah Branch Command.

'Izzat Ibrahim, Revolution Command Council vice chairman, also visited the al-Basrah Government House. He was briefed in detail by al-Basrah Governor Latif Mahall Humud on all issues of concern to the citizens of valiant al-Basrah, the city of all cities, and the services rendered to citizens. 'Izzat Ibrahim made appropriate instructions in this regard.

The meeting was attended by Comrade Muhammad Zimam, member of the Regional Command and official in charge of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party organizations in the South, and the comrade secretary and members of the Ba'th Party al-Basrah Branch Command.

Furthermore, 'Izzat Ibrahim, Revolution Command Council vice chairman, visited al-Zubayr District in al-Basrah Governorate and met with the masses there. He conveyed to them greetings from leader President Saddam Husayn. The masses in the district expressed their noble feelings and absolute support for the wise and courageous leadership, which cared for the people's interest and protected the will of the nation.

Presides at Maysan By-Elections Conference

JN1412125891 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 14 Dec 91

[Text] Comrade 'Izzat Ibrahim, assistant secretary of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command, has affirmed that the great victory scored by Iraqis in the Mother of Battles, the Arab nation's battle, against its historic enemies will remain a bright sun and a rich legacy in the history of great Iraq and its sons.

In a speech he delivered while attending and supervising the by-elections conference for the Maysan Branch, Ibrahim added: It would have been impossible to achieve this victory had it not been for the absolute faith in the sublime principles cherished by comrade strugglers—the principles they have striven to safeguard, and made immense sacrifices to vindicate. These strugglers, Ibrahim said, willingly accepted martyrdom as a component of the doctrine they had faith in, as a prerequisite and a sacred duty.

Comrade 'Izzat Ibrahim went on to say that the party, the people, or the nation that upholds a message in which it has faith cannot die. It will, he noted, remain alive, grow, and emerge victorious regardless of the belligerence of enemies. He noted that the Zionists and their proteges, be they Americans or other hateful Westerners, will see how this audacious people will tear apart the chapter of the blockade using the wealth, resources, and reserves kept in store in the lands of ancient Iraq.

The conference was attended by Comrade Muhammad Zimam, member of the Regional Command and official in charge of the Ba'th Party's organizations in the south; the comrade secretary of the Maysan Branch; and the Maysan governor.

Trade Minister Meets Friendship Society Official

JN1512110991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1000 GMT 15 Dec 91

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Dec (INA)—Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih today met a delegation of the Indian-Iraqi Friendship Society led by Mr. Singha Mihra, deputy chairman of the society.

During the meeting, the minister reviewed the malicious objectives of the economic blockade, as well as the Zionist U.S. Administration's attempt to maintain it to use as a tool for political pressure and blackmail with a view to violating Iraq's sovereignty and undermining the accomplishments and gains scored by Iraqis under the leadership of mujahid President Saddam Husayn.

For his part, Mr. Shinga Mihra condemned the unfair blockade imposed on the Iraqi people. He added that this blockade is a big crime in the modern age, one that not only endangers Iraq, but also peoples and countries of the developing world at present and in the future.

RCC Increases Remuneration of Retired Judges

JN1512133091 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1145 GMT 15 Dec 91

["Text" of Revolution Command Council, RCC, Decision No. 433 increasing the remuneration granted to judges returned to judicial service issued on 2 December]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Revolution Command Council. Decision No. 433. Decision date 26 Jumada al-Ula 1412 Hegira, corresponding to 2 December 1991.

Decision. In accordance with the provisions contained in Paragraph A of Article 42 of the Constitution, the Revolution Command Council has decided the following:

First, the raise enshrined in RCC Decision No. 288 of 22 August 1991 shall apply to the remunerations to which retired judges returned to judicial service other than members of the Court of Cassation are entitled in accordance with RCC Decision No. 58 of 17 January 1988.

Second, this decision shall go into effect as of the date it is issued.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, chairman of the Revolution Command Council

Tank Factory in Baghdad Resumes Operations

NC1512171791 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1610 GMT 15 Dec 91

[Text] The Iraqi Government has renewed operations at a tank factory in al-Taji camp in Baghdad. The factory has manufactured 12 Soviet TBC-type tanks to date.

Companies Allocate Food, Cereal Rations

JN1412083091 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 11 Dec 91 p 8

[By Maryam 'Atiyah; figures as published]

[Text] The public food and cereals companies have secured citizens' food rations through a network of agents operating in Baghdad. A responsible source at the Public Food Trade Company said that the company has secured food rations for 2,308,556 families. Baby milk rations, he noted, have also been secured for 65,824 children, from 395,961 families. The milk rations have been secured through 4,458 agents, he added. Another responsible source at the Public Cereals Company pointed out that the company has secured cereals rations for 2,294,177 citizens, who constitute 44 percent of the population of Baghdad Governorate, through 2,127 agents.

Turkish Truckers Smuggling Oil Across Kurdistan

AU1312124691 Paris AFP in English 1231 GMT 13 Dec 91

[Report by Jacques Charmelot]

[Text] Baghdad, Dec 13 (AFP)—Turkish truck drivers are going home daily with millions of liters (gallons) of oil bought in Iraq, despite a U.N. embargo, but the Baghdad government is not cashing in on the operation, a diplomat here said Friday.

"It's a violation of the sanctions in which Iraq comes out the loser," an east European diplomat said. "On the other hand, the Turks and the Kurds are capitalizing on it."

An average 600 trucks loaded with 6,000-8,000 liters (1,585-2,113 gallons) of fuel cross the border into Turkey every day through the border post of Silopi, according to a U.N. source in Baghdad who declined to be identified.

"Sometimes there are more than a thousand trucks waiting between Zakho and Silopi," said the source, who was recently in the region.

Zakho is part of Kurdistan, which is controlled by Kurdish separatist guerrillas.

The Turkish trucks head for Iraq with cargos of food purchased by Iraqi or Kurdish traders, or with materials distributed by U.N. agencies.

The U.N. slapped a trade embargo on Iraq after its forces invaded Kuwait in August 1990. It has permitted Iraq to buy food and medicines, but required special permission from the U.N. sanctions committee.

Before heading home, Turkish truckers fill up huge tanks mounted on their flatbeds at petrol stations or directly from oil salesmen, turning each trip into a profitable run.

A liter of petrol in Iraq costs 70 fils, or 25 U.S. cents at the official exchange rate, but paid directly in dollars, it in fact drops to a mere one cent on the black market.

In Turkey, it costs sixty times as much.

The truck drivers usually fill up their vehicles in Mosul and Kirkuk—major oil centers of northern Iraq which are under Iraqi Government control—as well as in Zakho.

But their profits are unofficially taxed at every step.

"The Iraqi traders ensure that they're paid at a premium and in dollars," the U.N. source said. The Kurds may charge each truck up to 800 dollars while Turkish customs officers at the border impose a tax of 1,500 dollars per vehicle.

The hard-earned profits go through a final cut, when drivers pay the transport companies employing them just to come to Iraq, he said.

The tanks used in transporting the oil, shown in photos to an AFP correspondent, are so loaded they almost touch the ground and often cause leaks that result in slippery spills on the region's highways.

Iraqi Trade Minister Mohammad Saleh told AFP this week that authorities in Baghdad were aware of the smuggling but not benefiting from it.

"Refined oil is sold by the state to distributors who then dispose of it as they wish. It's impossible for us to control the private sector's transactions," he said.

The East European diplomat echoed that view, saying that "smuggling of oil into Turkey is a substantial loss" for the government.

But, he added, "it helps to feed the free market," which partially supplies the gaps the government cannot fill given the embargo. The government provides, at reduced prices, only 30 percent of the minimum food rations.

Iraq has been accused of selling illegal oil but any such transaction on the market would be immediately spotted by international operators, a foreign oil expert in Iraq said.

Saleh meanwhile denied that there had been any illicite oil sales, saying Iraq had been authorized by the United Nations to provide Jordan with crude in repayment for a 90 million dollar debt incurred before the embargo.

Transport Minister on Modernizing Railroads

JN1412154991 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 11 Dec 91 pp 1, 2

[By Sabah Nahi, 'Adnan Samir, and Maha al-Ashtari from al-Muthanna]

[Text] The rail service between Baghdad and al-Basrah was resumed yesterday morning after an 11-month hiatus caused by the U.S.-Atlantic anti-Iraq aggression which had destroyed bridges and railroads in various areas, making railroad trips impossible.

Minister of Transport and Communications 'Abd-al-Sattar Ahmad al- Ma'ini yesterday inaugurated a railroad bridge across the Euphrates River in al-Samawah. He was accompanied by the al-Qadisiyah and al-Muthanna governors. This is a key bridge linking railroads in the al-Qadisiyah Governorate with those in the Dhi Qar Governorate via al-Muthanna Governorate. Following the inauguration, a Baghdad-al-Basrah train crossed the bridge. The bridge, which had been totally destroyed, was later reconstructed by the al-Anfal Contracting Company, an affiliate of the Ministry of Housing and Reconstruction. The bridge consists of six spans, each of which is made up of three precast concrete girders. Each of these girders is 42 meters long and weighs approximately 170 tonnes. All of this was completed through purely Iraqi endeavors.

The train also crossed the al-'Atshan railroad bridge in al- Samawah. This is one of the biggest bridges rebuilt by the al-Faw State Enterprise, an affiliate of the Military Industries Organization. The bridge consists of eight spans, each of which is 21 meters long. Each span includes eight girders and each girder is 20-30 meters long and 1 meter high.

The cost of reconstructing the bridge, which was rebuilt in a record five months time, came to a total of 2 million dinars.

During the railroad trip yesterday, the minister of transport and communications also inaugurated a railroad car and locomotive repair complex, which is one of the biggest complexes in Iraq. This complex had been the target of enemy bombardment and was reconstructed by Iraqi hands using materials similar to but not the same as the original materials used in its construction. It includes railroad car hangars and locomotive, truck, and railroad car workshops, as well as other service stations built at a cost of 1 million dinars.

At a news conference, Transport and Communications Minister 'Abd-al-Sattar Ahmad al-Ma'ini paid tribute to the efforts made by employees of the Ministry of Housing and Reconstruction, the Ministry of Industry and Minerals, and the Military Industries Organization to complete their repairs of the two railroad bridges over the Euphrates and the al-'Atshan rivers, as well as the al-Fayha' bridge in al-Basrah, after they had sustained serious hits and suffered severe to total destruction. Engineering cadres made tremendous efforts to repair these bridges and to reconstruct them through a 100 percent national endeavor, utilizing raw materials used in the bridges previously after having them remanufactured, he noted.

The minister affirmed that the ministry has an ambitious plan to expand railroad transportation, since this type of transportation has numerous advantages in terms of the cost to passengers, the large passenger capacity, and the element of safety during travel. However, the minister noted, the blockade imposed on Iraq precludes the implementation of the ministry's plans, especially since the implementation of such plans requires the importation of the required materials. Railroad projects were also halted, he stated, because Iraq had been engaged in the Iraq-Iran war and the U.S.-Atlantic aggression.

The minister pointed out that the ministry aspires to expand the railroad services it now renders to passengers by updating and maintaining the current system to accommodate locomotives with an accelerated speed up to 100 km per hour. Moreover, the ministry seeks to modernize the capabilities of the railroad cadres through specialized training courses, he noted.

The minister instructed the senior ministry cadres, who had accompanied him on the first trip to al-Basrah, to increase the number of railroad trips scheduled between Baghdad and al-Basrah both day and night to ensure that commodities and passengers reach their destinations without any delays. Furthermore, he advised them to give due attention to the issue of timing and the serivces rendered to passengers and to improve on previous performance in this regard.

In reply to a question on the Baghdad-al-Qa'im-'Akashat railroad and the date by which it will resume operations, the minister stated that Iraqi engineering cadres have managed to repair the Barwanah bridge. This development will enable authorities to operate the aforementioned railroad during the next few days to transport commodities and passengers.

Responding to a question on the resumption of domestic flights and the use of the al-Muthanna airport in Baghdad, the minister said that the ministry took over the maintenance functions of the aforesaid airport the day befor yesterday, Monday [9 December], and had begun preparing it in terms of tarmac and installations to receive passengers within seven days. The State Enterprise for Transport and Communications Projects is currently conducting reconstruction and maintenance work on the airport with a view to making it operational. The date of 15 January has been fixed for receiving passengers who want to travel to al-Basrah. This will be coordinated with the Air Force.

AL-JUMHURIYAH has learned that the second trip on the Baghdad-al-Basrah railroad began at 0900 on 10 December. As for the third trip, it is scheduled to begin at 0815 on Wednesday [11 December].

In a related development, 'Ata Nabil, director general of the State Enterprise for Railroads, has stated that the enterprise intends to modernize the cadres who work there by seeking the assistance of hotel and tourist services graduates and training them to work aboard and around trains. All restaurant services will be made available inside railroad cars and a special discount will be granted. Moreover, a cafeteria will be opened at the international station in Baghdad.

Study on Building, Enlarging Stadiums Commissioned

JN1512071591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2120 GMT 14 Dec 91

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Dec (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has ordered the formation of a committee comprising representatives of the Ministries of Housing and Reconstruction, Industry and Minerals, and Planning, in addition to representatives of the Military Industrialization Organization, and the Iraqi National Olympic Committee to prepare two studies, which will be presented to his excellency when completed.

This was announced today by 'Udayy Saddam Husayn, chairman of the Iraqi National Olympic Committee. He said the first study is on enlarging the People's Stadium to accommodate additional numbers of sports fans. The second study is on the possibility of building a new football stadium to accommodate 150,000 spectators in accordance with his excellency's 1986 order on building a stadium for 100,000 spectators.

'Udayy Saddam Husayn, in addition to sports leaders and people, appreciated President Saddam Husayn's kind decision, which is a continuation of his excellency's stance on supporting, sponsoring, and promoting the sports movement in our struggling Iraq.

Cabinet Discusses Facilities for Kuwait Deportees

JN1412145291 Baghdad INA in English 1350 GMT 14 Dec 91

[Text] Baghdad, Dec. 14, INA—The Council of Ministers held today an ordinary meeting chaired by the Prime Minister Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi.

The meeting discussed among topics of its agenda the facilities required to be provided for the Arab and Iraqi citizens to be deported from Kuwait.

More Citizens Return From Saudi Detention Camps

71 Return 13 Dec

JN1312190991 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Dec 91

[Text] Seventy-one Iraqis, who had been held in the al-Arqawiyah camp in Saudi Arabia, returned to the homeland today. The returnees told the INA reporter in al-Muthanna Governorate that Saudi authorities had prevented them from crossing via Iraqi border posts. The Saudi authorities, they added, left them in the al-Badiyah desert. They were later found by Iraqi customs patrols, who then accompanied them to the center of the governorate. They had been subjected to the worst kinds of torture. Those Iraqis who are still held in Saudi Arabia are being subjected to daily physical and psychological torture because they continually demand to be returned to the homeland. The Iraqis who returned from captivity shouted slogans pledging to his excellency, the leader President Saddam Husayn, their determination to remain faithful children of proud Iraq.

136 Return 15 Dec

JN1512180591 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Dec 91

[Text] Benefiting from leader President Saddam Husayn's noble decision to pardon fugitives and deserters, 136 citizens returned to the homeland today from detention camps on Saudi territory. The returnees told an INA correspondent in al-Muthanna Governorate that they had been subjected to the worst kinds of physical and psychological torture by the Saudi authorities only because they had demanded the simplest of daily needs, had rejected the inhuman treatment by these authorities, and had voiced their desire to return to the homeland.

The returnees expressed their joy at this noble decision, which allowed them to return to the homeland, lead an honorable life among their families and relatives, and effectively contribute to building and protecting the homeland. They also gave their pledge to the political leadership, led by leader President Saddam Husayn, to defend the homeland and to confront the aggressors and betrayers.

Shamir on Peace Talks, Settlers' Actions in Hebron

TA1512173391 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1705 GMT 15 Dec 91

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Gil Litman in Jerusalem on 15 December—recorded]

[Text] [Litman] Sir, does Israel still insist that the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation remain united?

[Shamir] Clearly, it is a matter of principle for us; it was agreed upon and we stand firm on that.

[Litman] Did the foreign minister coordinate with you all the details of his trip to Washington?

[Shamir] Yes, he coordinated with me and I wished him success.

[Litman] How do you view the invitation? Is the United States thereby expressing support for the foreign minister's line?

[Shamir] I do not know the U.S. Administration's intentions. Anyway, I wished the foreign minister success in his meeting with the U.S. President.

[Litman] Do you think the multilateral talks could still take place in Moscow in view of the disintegration of the USSR?

[Shamir] There are doubts about that, but we shall live and see. I hope that the bilateral negotiations will continue and achieve results.

[Litman] How can the ice by broken with the Syrians?

[Shamir] We are not negotiating only with the Syrians. The negotiations are difficult and extended, but I believe that in the long run we will see results.

[Litman] A final question, are you prepared to respond to the actions by the settlers today in Hebron?

[Shamir] There is no need for such actions; they cannot be justified and do not serve anything.

Cabinet Briefed on Peace Talks, Other Issues

TA1512120691 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 15 Dec 91

[Report by Moshe Hakohen from the Prime Minister's Office]

[Text] The defense minister, the chief of staff, and the police commissioner delivered a report on security affairs at the beginning of today's cabinet meeting. This part of the meeting was held under the title of Ministerial Committee for National Security Affairs.

The prime minister briefed the ministers on the Washington talks. He pointed out that Israel would like to conclude the procedural negotiations surrounding the Jordanian-Palestinian matter this week. He also said our delegation will not broach matters of substance. The prime minister was thereby responding to apprehensions voiced by right-wing ministers. This is what Minister Yuval Ne'eman said:

[Begin Ne'eman recording] In reply to my question, the prime minister said that in this round there will be no time for these issues, and therefore substance will not be addressed before the Inner Cabinet holds a debate on the issue of autonomy. [end recording]

The prime minister told the ministers that the Israeli delegations all will return to Israel by the end of this week. Israel, he added, will insist on holding the next round of talks either in the Middle East or in Europe.

Referring to multilateral talks, the prime minister noted that in the wake of the recent events in the former USSR, it is no longer certain that Moscow is the next venue for talks. No any other venue or date is certain at the moment.

The cabinet did not hold a full-fledged political debate in its meeting this morning. After the prime minister's report, the ministers were apprised of the condition of Israel's water resources. They approved the appointment of Mikha'el Vardi as the director of Israel Land Administration, and of 'Amram Kalagi as Interior Ministry director general.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1105 GMT on 15 December adds that "all the ministers welcomed the upcoming meeting between Foreign Minister David Levi and U.S. President George Bush."

The report also states that "the cabinet today approved an agricultural cooperation agreement with Greece."]

Peace Talks 'Most Likely' To Continue in Europe

TA1512153991 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 15 Dec 91

[Text] The bilateral talks will most likely continue in one of the European countries with the backing of the United States. Our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen has learned that the Belgians rejected the possibility that the talks would continue in Brussels, and the prospect of conducting them in Portugal is now being studied. Israel is sticking to its position that the proper and best location for the talks is the Middle East.

In the cabinet's weekly meeting this morning right-wing ministers criticized the police for permitting Faysal al-Husayni to move freely in the City of David and to incite the local Arabs.

Levi To Visit UN, Delegations in Washington

TA1412202191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 14 Dec 91

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi leaves for New York tonight to participate in the UN General Assembly debate on repealing the resolution comparing Zionism with racism. In New York, Minister Levi will meet with the UN secretary general and discuss the issue of the hostages and POW's.

Minister Levi noted that Israel has done its share to assist the UN secretary general, who promised to continue to act on the matter in order to get all the hostages, POW's, and MIA's home.

From New York, David Levi will go to Washington and confer with the Israeli delegation to the negotiations with the Arabs. The foreign minister hopes that the problem of the talks with the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation will be resolved within 24 hours. He stressed that his office is coordinating fully with the Prime Minister's Office on the Washington talks, although they are not always in agreement. On Tuesday, Minister Levi will confer with President Bush at the invitation of the White House.

Our correspondent Shulamit Schmerling reports that Mr. Levi this evening is attending a Haifa gathering in which hundreds of his Likud followers participated, and from where he will leave for the airport.

Our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen reports that Minister Levi's visit to Nigeria, which had been planned for next week to restore diplomatic relations between the two countries, has been delayed to January. The Nigerian foreign minister sent a cable to David Levi today requesting that the visit be postponed in view of the elections for district governors in his country.

Levi Departs; Rejects Prime Minister Candidacy

TA1512053491 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 15 Dec 91

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister David Levi left last night for the United States. The purpose of his trip is to attend the UN vote to repeal the resolution equating Zionism with racism, but he'll also meet with President Bush in Washington on Tuesday. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Levi last night rejected calls by his supporters in the Likud to put forward his candidacy for prime minister. Levi told his supporters at this time he was not planning to make any dramatic announcements. At the same time, Levi criticized his opponents from within the Likud, saying that after a year and a half of keeping quiet his supporters would struggle within the party to defend his position in power. [passage omitted]

U.S. Possibly Exploiting Ministers' Disagreements

TA1512073291 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 15 Dec 91

[Excerpt] Our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen has checked on how the prime minister perceives Foreign Minister David Levi's trip to the United States and his meeting with George Bush:

The Americans may be trying to operate in the gray area where Israeli cabinet ministers disagree, senior sources say. David Levi's invitation to the White House on Tuesday should be seen in that light. On more than one occasion the Americans have proceeded as experienced chess players, exploiting the pieces at their disposal, the sources noted.

Commenting on the trip, the prime minister's associates said: The deputy prime minister coordinated his trip to the United States with the prime minister. The trip was planned three days ago. Shamir and Levi discussed the trip and the meeting with President Bush. There is full coordination between Shamir and David Levi, and they coordinate on any decision or guidelines.

As for the Washington talks, the associates asserted that Shamir and the entire government are insistent on the need to move them to our region. They also said Israel insists the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation should be a joint delegation. The sources noted they could not yet point to any dramatic progress on this issue. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Shamir—Arabs 'Have Enough Land'

AU1412193291 Munich SUEDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG in German 14-15 Dec 91 p 11

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Josef Joffe; place and date not given: "We Cannot Have Peace Without the Land"]

[Text] [Joffe] Mr. Prime Minister, the Syrians, Lebanese, and Jordanians are holding direct, official talks with Israel for the first time since Isarel was founded. Is this a miracle, or is it a tribute to reality?

[Shamir] Ben-Gurion said at one time that every realist here must believe in miracles. The Arabs' readiness to talk about peace is the consequence of their failure to liquidate Israel. They have tried it time and again, and they have realized now that if they cannot win the war, they must talk with us. That is just a beginning, and as is the case with every beginning, there are many difficulties and obstacles—both psychological and objective—but the fact that it did begin proves....

[Joffe] Proves what—realism or the wish to make peace?

[Shamir] We must be careful and differentiate. Some people want to have peace, and others still believe that they do not need to have peace. However, on the whole, we see a readiness for more realism here.

[Joffe] One problem is that the Arabs want to have the land, and Israel wants to have peace....

[Shamir] That is impossible. They cannot claim land and peace. We cannot have peace without the land. We have had an existence for 2000 years without land, and we do not want to continue to live like that. We want to keep the land, and we want to live in peace on this land. That is a legitimate wish.

[Joffe] But I am talking about the Golan and the West Bank....

[Shamir] I do not know what you mean, but our country is so small, so tiny, that nothing can be taken away from it. There is virtually nothing here....

[Joffe] However, they want to have the land, and you want to have the land. How can there be peace?

[Shamir] That is the problem. But they have enough land. They have enough land that belongs to them. All these so-called territories total 28,000 square km. What would anyone in his right mind think if part of it were taken away? We could not live or exist without it. After all, we are now 4 million, and by the end of this decade, we will probably be 1 million more. Possibly there eventually will be 10 million Jews here. A place like Singapore would not be enough for such a number.

[Joffe] Excuse me, but I must ask the question once again. The Arabs want to have the land back, and you....

[Shamir] Certainly. However, they must accept the fact that Israel is here and has a right to live on this land. The Arabs have enough land. They have 20 countries and a total of 14 million square km—enough land for their economic development. They must accept that. However, they do not accept it. But they will accept it. In any case, we have made a start....

[Joffe] Does that also hold true for the Golan Heights?

[Shamir] Of course, of course, it does. What are the Golan Heights? A very important element of our security. You may be too young to remember....

[Joffe] Regrettably, I am not. I remember....

[Shamir] ... Good. Then you also know what the Golan Heights mean to us.

[Joffe] But if a party does not get what it wants to have at any cost, how can you make peace?

[Shamir] Look, I do not know any nation in the world that would be ready to give up territories; not even larger countries would make such concessions.

[Joffe] What would Israel have to offer the Arabs?

[Shamir] Peace.

[Joffe] Please describe your vision of peace.

[Shamir] Well, I think that our cooperation in many walks of life will change the whole situation here. In the Middle East, you cannot currently see any movement in the direction of democracy and economic development. However, we are taking the lead in technological progress, and we can share this progress with all the peoples in this region, and that would change everything—for instance, the living standard, where there are huge differences between us and the Arabs. If we live together and work together, they will be like us. There is already a difference between the Palestinians and all the other Arabs regarding the living standard.

[Joffe] But the Palestinians do not want to live like you. They want to have their own land.

[Shamir] They have it—part of the Arab land. We are willing and ready to talk about autonomy now, so that the Palestinians who live in our country will feel more satisfaction and dignity. However, they cannot dream about a state. There cannot be two states on this territory of 28,000 square kilometers. That is impossible, impossible. Being Arabs, they can live in the whole region. There have been Palestinian prime ministers in Jordan, and Palestinians are represented in every government....

[Joffe] ... Is Jordan Palestine?

[Shamir] That is not political propaganda, it is reality. King Husayn has said time and again: We are a people. They speak the same language and even the same dialect....

[Joffe] Well, would it then be acceptable if Yasir 'Arafat were prime minister in Amman?

[Shamir] No. For me, the people that King Husayn appoints are good enough and even better than Yasir 'Arafat because he began his career with the aim of liquidating the State of Israel. Now he talks about peace because it is realistic.

[Joffe] Why are the people that Husayn appoints better than 'Arafat?

[Shamir] The PLO's ideology is not aimed at improving the Palestinians' living conditions. It is their main goal to destroy us; to kill us; to destroy our physical, cultural, and economic existence. The PLO is not primarily interested in a Palestinian state.

[Joffe] How about the 'Ashrawis and the Husaynis (leading figures from the occupied territories—editorial board)? Are they different?

[Shamir] There is no great difference. Maybe they are better educated. However, there are not just the Husaynis and the 'Ashrawis. To be sure, their decision to talk with us is a step forward. However, those who come after them will even go a step further. In any case, today we must work with the conditions that were laid down in Camp David. We committed ourselves in this respect, we signed the agreement, and we will keep to it.

[Joffe] In Camp David the sides agreed on a 5-year transition period, and then....

[Shamir] ...Camp David did not say what would come after that....

[Joffe] ...then a final solution would come....

[Shamir] ...then there would be negotiations on the future, on the future status of the disputed territories. However, no one said anything about the result of such negotiations. Perhaps...in any case, our position is clear. Sovereignty will belong to Israel. However, we do not insist on it today because we have committed ourselves to negotiate.

[Joffe] Let us discuss another topic—Syria. That country wants the Golan back. However, it seems that Israel plans to refuse to return the Golan Heights. What would Syria then get?

[Shamir] Peace.

[Joffe] However, Israel was never an aggressor toward Syria. How would peace change the situation for Syria?

[Shamir] They know perfectly well that peace with Israel, cooperation with Israel would basically change the situation. Their image in the world would change. We could cooperate....

[Joffe] Where?

[Shamir] Technological and agricultural cooperation, for instance. You know, we could do a lot for Syria and the whole Arab world in this respect.

[Joffe] Can you conclude a stable peace with nondemocratic states?

[Shamir] That is very difficult. However, we cannot impose democracy from outside. But, if they make peace with us, the consequence will be more democracy. In any case, we cannot make democracy a prerequisite for peace. (Laughs) That would not be realistic. I have no doubt that peace will improve the opportunities for democracy throughout the Arab world, even though nothing suggests at present that there is a wish for democracy. Perhaps peace and coexistence with us will touch it off. The Arabs are very good at copying others....

[Joffe] Perhaps they will then also have 18 parties in parliament, as you have in the Knesset now, and perhaps also such stable majorities.

[Shamir] (Laughs) It is not easy to live with 18 parties, but we live with it.

[Joffe] Let us talk about the oldest democracy—the United States. Do you have a feeling that....

[Shamir] The oldest democracy is England. The United States is the largest democracy.

[Joffe] Okay, let us talk about the largest democracy. Is the United States still the "honest broker," or has it begun to favor the Arabs?

[Shamir] Occasionally, our relations are comparable to a roller coaster—up and down. But, in the final analysis, we are friends because the two peoples are on friendly terms. So, we can accept occasional criticism. It may be that the Americans do not want to assume the role of an "honest broker," but I do not see any other nation in the world that would be qualified or able to play this role.

[Joffe] Apropos friends—what do you think about the Germans?

[Shamir] (Laughs) Well, Germany is no monolith, less so after unification. There are many political parties and movements. As for the German Government, it is doing a lot to create a friendly atmosphere toward Israel.

[Joffe] One last and personal question: Abroad the idea that is associated with "Shamir" is this: The man is hard, dogged, uncompromising. Is that a fair picture?

[Shamir] Is that what people say about me?

[Joffe] Do you care?

[Shamir] Sometimes I believe that with such an impression I can benefit Israel.

Commentary on New Pan-Arab Axes at Peace Talks

TA1112142191 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 11 Dec 91 pp 10, 11

[Pinhas 'Inbari commentary: "Signs of Independence"]

[Text] The controversy over the independence of the Palestinian delegation highlights the fact that it is adopting a completely different policy in Washington from that taken in Madrid. There, the delegation battled over the symbols of independence, which meant first of all independence from Jordan. It held its own news conferences, on each occasion reiterating its independence from the Jordanian delegation, but when matters reached the stage at which a real decision had to be made, the Palestinians preferred coordination and cooperation with Jordan. This was especially felt in the big dispute with the Syrian delegation. The Palestinians and Jordanians came together to the first meeting with the Israeli delegation even before the Syrians made up their minds, thereby dragging them along behind them. Faysal al-Husayni's delegation was careful to place a buffer between it and the Jordanians, but still preferred coordinating with them.

The picture in Washington is different. The Palestinians played up their independence even beyond the news conferences and made sure immediately upon their arrival to position themselves in the same hotel as the Syrians and not the Jordanians. Later, their behavior was completely different from that in Madrid as they refused to attend a meeting with the Israelis together with the Jordanians, insisting instead on being a separate delegation in a separate room.

The Palestinian delegation has had many limitations placed on it, and the personal conflicts among its members are an open secret, which it tries in vain to hide. The most serious development, however, which is influencing its behavior—not supported by all its members—is the pan-Arabism evolving around it. This has set off a grave discord in the PLO, which has not yet openly surfaced despite the early signs of it. In Madrid, the delegation acted on the basis of a single school of thought; in Washington a different school of thought has taken over. The mystery of Faysal al-Husayni's staying at home this time and not leaving for Washington with his friends is tied to this dispute.

The Arab world is divided on the question of whether to come to Moscow in late January for multilateral talks or to condition the opening of that conference on some real achievement in the bilateral talks. New pan-Arab axes are developing around that dispute, which will be a feature of the Middle East for a long time to come. Jordan, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia have already informed the two cosponsors of the political process—the United States and the USSR—that they will come to Moscow. In other words, they did not wait for any real achievement in the bilateral stage of the talks. Syria and the PLO are putting off their answer, because Syria has said that it will not attend those talks without progress in the bilateral stage. Late last week, PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat backed the Syrian position. In a public announcement in Tunis last Thursday, he said that the Palestinians will not go to Moscow without real achievements in the Washington talks and explained that he was referring mainly to a halt in settlement. On Monday, 'Arafat added that the two cosponsors—especially the United States, but also the USSR—prefer Israel. In other words, he was saying that the invitation to the first meeting in Moscow does not give the Palestinians any inducement making it easier for them to drop their conditions.

By doing that, 'Arafat deviated from the basic understanding between the Palestinian delegation and the Americans to drop the settlement issue from the bilateral meetings and to depend on the United States to deal with the matter directly with Israel in a way that will satisfy the Palestinians. That understanding is very important to the Americans because the entire bilateral stage of the talks is merely a bother to them since they do not believe that they will be able to achieve a speedy breakthrough. The multilateral gathering—or the regional conference that will open in Moscow—is the real conference, which opens up for them the prospect of the new Middle East, and they do not want the bilateral stage to delay the fulfillment of their real aim.

AL-NAHAR—the East Jerusalem daily which supports Jordan—in a 7 December editorial called openly on the Arab world to come to the Moscow talks and pointed out that the multilateral conference is in fact the international conference the Arabs have wanted all along.

While Jordan, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia accept the Moscow conference, the Syrians and PLO oppose it. The Palestinian delegation's decision to stay in the same hotel as the Syrians therefore symbolizes much more than just comfort. In Madrid, the delegation preferred to coordinate with Jordan, in Washington with Syria. Therefore, the delegation is torn apart on the strategic issue of whether to tie its fate to a coalition developing between those going to Moscow—Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt—or its opponents—the PLO and Syria.

The dispute over who to go with—Jordan or Syria—was already creating a dilemma in the Palestinian delegation in Madrid. PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat invited the heads of delegation to Rabat, the Moroccan capital, and made it clear to them that he is in the midst of rehabilitating his ties with Syria, calling on them to act accordingly. Nevertheless, the Palestinians joined the Jordanians in shaking hands with the Israelis. Immediately after Madrid, the PLO increased its coordination with Syria so that the Madrid affair would not repeat itself in Washington, and whoever is searching for a reason for al-Husayni's staying behind can find it there.

Al-Husayni gave several interviews after the delegation left for Madrid, and what he said does not match 'Arafat's declarations. It is still too early to reach far-reaching political conclusions, but the differences in emphasis are worth noting. While 'Arafat is already presenting conditions on the settlement issue in order to be able to give the delegation the green light to go to Moscow, al- Husayni is sticking to the basic understanding with the Americans not to bring that up during the bilateral talks so that they can move quickly onto the regional talks where there is the real chance for peace. He does not say so specifically, but that can certainly sum up what he has said in various interviews. For instance, in an interview with 'AL HAMISHMAR last Friday, when asked about settlements, he did not speak in terms of an ultimatum, but noted that it was one of the issues that must be discussed with Israel when the time comes.

In an interview with AL-FAJR on 4 December, he stated plainly that the settlement issue is not a precondition for continuing the political process, although he gave the process no chance if the settlement drive continued; and, in another interview published by AL-FAJR on 9 December, al-Husayni went to great lengths to specify the important—from the Palestinian viewpoint—advantages inherent in regional arrangements.

While al-Husayni may or may not disagree with 'Arafat, the two men's view on emphases are definitely dissimilar. Al-Husayni would like to see the delegation hurry to the regional talks in Moscow, together with Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt, without foot-dragging and without causing delays in compliance with the line on which the Palestinians and the Syrians have just agreed in Washington. It is true that at the outset, al-Husayni was in no hurry to coordinate policies with Jordan and Egypt. However, a search of his innermost thoughts may reveal that after his experience with Faruq al-Shar' in Madrid, his preference for the Moscow talks lies with the Jordanians, Saudis, and Egyptians, and not with the unsplendid isolation in the company of the Syrians.

At this point in time, al-Husayni finds coordination with Syria cumbersome for an additional reason. In the 9 December AL-FAJR interview, al-Husayni made another pronouncement which is liable to cause anxiety to that PLO branch we customarily term "organizations," namely, the military branch of the historic PLO which may feel threatened by the present political process. Al-Husayni said that a Palestinian state will not threaten Israel's security because "we do not want an army. What do we need an army for?" asked al-Husayni.

These remarks are incompatible with coordination with Syria, the host of quite a few military PLO organizations whose views on the nature of the Palestinian state are much less pacifistic than al-Husayni's. These organizations may fear the possibility that the first steps toward the demilitarization of the Palestinian state will be taken long before the state is established, and they are liable to face tricky situations as the political process goes on. 'Arafat's decision to opt for coordination with Syria at this time may deprive al-Husayni of the PLO's support in his arguments with those organizations—arguments which he finds very difficult in any case.

Even now, for instance, Nayif Hawatimah, the leader of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, says that he will join the political process only if the delegation is replaced; his organization's position against al-Husayni is well known. If the PLO-Syrian coordination goes any deeper, a situation may evolve in which 'Arafat will have to choose between Syria with its Palestinians and al-Husayni and his people. This very dilemma is liable to provide the background for dire storms among the Palestinians.

The Palestinian alignment with the Syrians in Washington is not the bottom line. Long-term coordination between the PLO and the Damascus radicals is hard to imagine. The real struggle will be waged over participation in the Moscow talks, by which time anything can happen—and not merely because of upheavals inside the USSR.

Lubrani—UN Head Neglecting Fate of POW Arad

TA1512120091 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 15 Dec 91 p 4

[Report by Yosi Werther from New York and by Aharon Klein]

[Excerpts] "We feel we have been hoodwinked by both the Iranians and the United Nations in everything related to the negotiations for the release of Middle East hostages and POW's," an Israeli source closely involved in the negotiations said yesterday.

Meanwhile, Uri Lubrani, who heads the team negotiating the release of the Israeli POW's and MIA's, charged that since the successful end of the U.S. hostage affair, the UN secretary general has neglected efforts to bring about the release of Israeli navigator Ron Arad or glean new information about the others. Lubrani held a telephone conversation with Javier Perez de Cuellar two days ago and described the exchange as "lengthy and very tough." He sharply attacked the secretary general, saying that he had not fulfilled his promise and has not done enough to assist in the matter, in spite of Israel's gestures that led to the release of the U.S. and British hostages. Lubrani said he feels the Israeli issue has all of a sudden been forgotten and pushed to the sidelines.

An Israeli diplomat who met Lubrani after the telephone conversation described him as being "extremely emotional, almost shaking." An Israeli source told HADASHOT: Lubrani simply shouted at the secretary general.

Perez de Cuellar replied that he is totally committed to helping Israel get Arad back, and he complained about statements Lubrani made to a New York daily, in which he claimed the secretary general is more interested in winning the Nobel prize than in obtaining the release of the missing navigator.

"He told me we do not appreciate his efforts. I told him that I judge things by results," Lubrani told HADASHOT a few hours after the conversation. He also complained that Perez de Cuellar only "murmured"—to use Lubrani's term—about the Israeli issue at a Christmas celebration at the White House on Thursday. Lubrani also protested the absence of a clear statement on the issue during a speech Perez de Cuellar delivered at a Thursday ceremony in honor of the freed hostages at the White House. Incidentally, President Bush also forgot the Israelis.

Asked whether worse relations with the secretary general might not harm the process, Lubrani answered: "There comes a time when a spade must be called a spade. The secretary general must to understand what we think." [passage omitted]

An Israeli source associated with the negotiations told HADASHOT yesterday that Iran's UN envoy Kamal Kharrazi is also in Tehran these days, preparing for the arrival of the UN's Giandomenico Picco. "He may be there only to save the secretary general's face," said the source, expressing pessimism.

Aharon Klein adds: A senior defense establishment source with ties to the issue said that "the very fact that the UN secretary general's envoy leaves for the Middle East should keep us from losing hope. We will not stand in his way."

Attorney Uri Slonim, a member of the negotiating team, said yesterday in reaction to the pessimistic news of the fate of the POW's and MIA's that "one must see action and results as more important; words are less important."

[Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew, in a front-page report by Hemi Shalev and Miryam Fuchs, adds that when Foreign Minister Levi meets Perez de Cuellar tomorrow "he will express Israel's dissatisfaction with the emerging possibility of ending the POW and MIA exchange without making sure the Israelis return as well."

[Another report by On Levi and Miryam Fuchs on page 2 of the same edition of DAVAR, dealing with Picco's mission, quotes "senior defense officials" as saying that "we will remain hopeful until the end of the month, but one must not entertain illusions." These sources "leveled sharp criticism at the United States for announcing that it plans to demand trial for the kidnapers," saying: The sources are quoted as saying: "It is inconceivable that the United States say such things at the height of negotiations over our men. The U.S. announcement raised

panic among the terrorist organizations in Lebanon, which have now reversed their previous stand, announcing that they do not hold Israelis." The report notes that the sources urged the West to return Israel's favor by helping it obtain the release of its men.]

Arens Denounces Settlers' Retaliatory Actions

TA1512142991 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 15 Dec 91

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens denounced the retaliatory actions by the settlers in the Hebron and Ramallah areas. It is a violation of the law and we will take measures against those people, Arens said. Those who think that such activity will improve the security situation in the area are mistaken, Arens said. Minister Arens toured the locations where there were attacks against Israelis in the past few days and noted that prior to each stage in the negotiations with the Arabs, terrorists have operated against Israeli civilians. He said the order banning movement near the roadsides in the territories can be implemented and will improve the security situation.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that Knesset Members 'Oded Zucker, Yosi Sarid, and Hayim Oron planted some 20 olive saplings between Nabulus and Alon More on sites where settlers uprooted such trees last week, but shortly afterward Beni Katzover, head of the Samaria regional council, uprooted them. He told our correspondent that he is proud of his action and that the trees will be replanted in Alon More.

Settlers Evacuate Silwan House After Court Order

TA1312162191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 13 Dec 91

[Text] The settlers have evacuated Bet Hatzofe in Silwan after the Jerusalem Magistrate's Court issued a temporary injunction ordering the police to leave the house and lock it up. On the other hand, the court allowed 10 settlers to remain in Bet Hatira but forbade them to carry out any change there or to renovate the house. The order will remain in force until the court hands down a final verdict in three days on title to the two houses.

Nighttime Curfew Declared in Ramallah Area

TA1512053891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 15 Dec 91

[Text] The curfews clamped on Ramallah, al-Birah, and nearby Arab villages two weeks ago following the murder of 'Ofra resident Tzvi Klein were lifted overnight. Starting today there will be a nighttime curfew on Ramallah and al-Birah from 1700 to 0400 the next morning.

Further on Curfew Details

TA1412173391 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 14 Dec 91

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] announced tonight that from now on movement near the roadsides by inhabitants in Judaea and Samaria is banned after nightfall. The ban will start at 1700 and last until 0500. Military officials announced that the ban covers a 150-meter area on both sides of the road except in built-up areas. It does not include movement along the road itself. Our correspondent notes that the areas on the sides of the main traffic axes were declared closed areas. Whoever is discovered in the closed areas near the roadsides will be detained according to IDF procedure. The closure was decided on after it was found that most attacks are perpetrated at night from the roadsides.

The fourth anniversary of the establishment of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] was marked today with many stone-throwing incidents and disturbances. Military sources reported that three Gazans were shot and wounded by the IDF over the weekend during the dispersal of disturbances in Gaza town, but local inhabitants complained to our correspondent Moti Amir that 12 locals were wounded by IDF fire, five in al-Shaykh Radwan and seven in the al- Shati' refugee camp. They said the Civil Administration in the Gaza Strip has closed six schools in Rafah until further notice.

Settlers Damage Arab Cars in Ramallah 'Rampage'

TA1512123691 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 15 Dec 91

[Text] Settlers went on a rampage in Ramallah this morning, shattering the windows of many cars and houses. The owners complained to the police and, consequently, the Army and the local police launched an investigation that led to the arrest of several settlers. Later, settlers in Hebron announced that they had also damaged more than 20 cars owned by Arabs in Hebron and Halhul. Our correspondent has learned that settlers held an emergency session in Qiryat Arba' last night following the shooting incident in Ma'ale 'Amos, and decided to retaliate in Halhul and Hebron.

The security forces arrested 25 suspects and wanted men in the old and new 'Askar refugee camps in the course of a joint operation by the Border Police, the Army, and the police. The operation commander said knives, swords, axes, and homemade guns had been seized in the operation. A curfew was clamped on the camps, and the searches continue. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the footprints of the terrorists who staged the attack on Elon More, in which Nehama Porat was wounded, had led to the 'Askar area.

[A report by Yoram Binur and Aharon Klein on page 6 of Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew on 15 December adds: "A decree announcing the expropriation of 500 dunams of land from Kafr al-Dik in the Nabulus District has been handed over to the residents, Palestinian sources reported. The decree was signed by Menahem Haika, who is in charge of government property in Judaea and Samaria."]

600 Settlers Join Retaliation Group

TA1612124991 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 16 Dec 91 p A1

[Report by Nadav Shragay]

[Text] On Saturday night, 600 Qiryat Arba' residents signed "orders of mobilization" for what they described as "immediate retaliation for the harassment of Jews on the roads." The signatures were collected at the end of a meeting convened at the local cultural center after learning of yet another shooting at an Israeli car near Ma'ale 'Amos. All the signatories expressed their "readiness to set out to the sites of attacks against Jews" when summoned by the leaders of the special action committee, which was established on the same occasion.

The audience was addressed by Tehiya Knesset Member Elyaqim Ha'etzni; Tzvi Katzover, chairman of the Qiryat Arba' Council; Rabbi Moshe Levinger; Rabbi Eli'ezer Waldman; and Kakh member Dr. Barukh Godstein.

Some of the speakers described the scenario they hope to carry out after every incident, whereby settlers will set out from Qiryat Arba' in hundreds of cars to tempt Arab assailants to hit at least one car. Should the plan work out and a car be hit, they would inform the Army and, in prior coordination with it, a curfew would immediately be clamped on the area.

The audience was also told about the imminent establishment of Manoah, a settlement which has been approved by the government, near Qiryat Arba'.

[A related report by Eytan Rabin and Nadav Shragay on the same page adds: "A senior officer in the Central Command told HA'ARETZ yesterday that the Army is losing control over the settlers and will have a hard time trying to prevent acts of retaliation similar to those perpetrated yesterday against Arab cars and shops in various places in the West Bank." The officer added that "the Army fears an escalation in the conflict, which would include retaliation against Arabs by Jewish terror groups who would probably use firearms."]

Policemen Indicted for 'Abusing' Arab Detainees

TA1512123191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 15 Dec 91

[Excerpt] The police command says it has no intention of ignoring any untoward actions by policemen. The remarks came in the wake of reports that 10 officers and policemen face charges of mistreating Arab prisoners. More from Ya'aqov Rosenberg:

The indictment contains explosive material on a scale that has not been seen for years in the national police. Ten policemen and officers in the Jerusalem police force are accused of abusing Arab detainees. That includes charges of forging evidence, blackmailing suspects to incriminate themselves, and later providing false testimony against the suspects in court.

The indictment, which was submitted to the Jerusalem District Court by State Prosecutor Dorit Beinish, deals with officers who served in the Minorities Department, including its former commander.

According to the charges, the abuse began two years ago, when the officers allegedly forced Arab suspects from East Jerusalem to admit to crimes they never committed. These included attempted murder as well as murder. The charge sheet says the officers beat the Arab detainees with wooden planks and rubber hoses and threatened their families until they agreed to confess to the accusations against them. In several cases, the indictment says, the police investigators, using fabricated evidence, would then testify in court that the suspects confessed to the crimes on their own free will.

The charges against the officers are regarded as so serious that Police Commissioner Ya'aqov Terner summoned the commander of the Jerusalem Police, as well as legal advisers, to discuss additional steps against the suspects. [passage omitted]

Trials for Nusaybah, Abu-'Ayyash Opposed

TA1512055291 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 15 Dec 91

[Text] The state attorney has told the High Court that for security reasons it opposes placing on trial Palestinian activists Sari Nusaybah and Radwan Abu-'Ayyash. The state attorney's announcement was a response to a petition by Knesset Member Elyaqim Ha'etzni against Attorney General Yosef Harish, the central military prosecutor, and the commissioner of police.

Security sources have linked Nusaybah and Abu-'Ayyash to crimes including authoring intifadah pamphlets and ties with PLO members abroad. Nusaybah is also said to have helped fund intifadah activists.

Appeals to Saudis To Grant Pilgrimage Visas

TA1612130991 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 16 Dec 91 p 7

[Report by Fayiz 'Abbas]

[Excerpts] Saudi Arabia has refused to issue visas to 1,200 Israeli Arabs, who were scheduled to cross the Allenby Bridge on Wednesday en route to Mecca to fulfill the 'Umra precept (the lesser of two annual pilgrimages). [passage omitted]

Shaykh Tawfiq 'Asali, president of the Shari'a Court of Appeals, met with Shaykh Sa'd-al-Din al-'Alami, the mufti of Jerusalem, yesterday and asked him to intercede to revoke the Saudi decision. 'Asali addressed a similar plea to King Fahd and King Husayn.

Chief of Staff Baraq on Iraqi Nuclear Threat

TA1312200591 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1810 GMT 6 Dec 91

[Address by Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq, the chief of staff, to the Commercial and Industrial Club in Tel Aviv on 6 December—recorded; broadcast in progress]

[Text] ...Two points. First, that if we stand firm in guarding our defense interest; if we know how to clarify to ourselves what is essential, what is important, and what is desirable; if we are prepared to die for what is vital and to struggle as long as necessary for what is important and to negotiate on what is desirable for us, especially if it is vital for the other side; if we know how to do all those things, then although there are risks in entering these negotiations they also contain not insignificant chances.

The second point. I recalled earlier that one of the three aims driving the Americans and the international community is disarming Iraq of its nonconventional capability. From our viewpoint, the international community's consistency and determination in that effort is an important test case for three reasons. First, because of the very risk. The Iraqis still have, in our view, several hundred Scud missiles, thousands of chemical warheads for artillery, fuel-air bombs, etc. They were closer two years ago than anybody in the West ever assumed to installing a nuclear device. They were most likely in the advanced stages of planning a nuclear device, not only for the ignition of fissionable materials, and it is not inconceivable that, had the Gulf war not taken place, within 18 months or perhaps two years they would have had a nuclear bomb.

Reservations on Sale of Patriots to Saudis Noted

TA1512105691 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 15 Dec 91 p 2

[Report by Amir Oren]

[Excerpt] The Shamir government decided last week to cease expressing active opposition to the sale of 14 Patriot missile batteries to Saudi Arabia at the recommendation of the Israeli Embassy in Washington and AIPAC [American Israel Public Affairs Committee]. This was despite the defense establishment's opposition. The new position is now merely to express Israel's reservations about the sale of U.S. weapons to any Arab country that maintains de facto hostile relations toward Israel. The main political effort will focus on persuading the administration to limit the deployment sites of the batteries so that their advanced early-warning systems do not constitute an intelligence threat to the activities of Israel's Air Force. [passage omitted]

PRC Said Ready To Establish Economic Ties

TA1612131291 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (MAMON supplement) in Hebrew 16 Dec 91 p 2

[Report by Beni Baraq]

[Text] The PRC Government is ready to establish direct economic relations with Israel, but the Israeli Government is not doing enough to promote such ties.

This was stated yesterday by Dani Gillerman, president of the Union of Chambers of Commerce, who headed an economic delegation which returned from China 10 days ago.

Gillerman said that the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade, which used to be the main opponent to ties with Israel because of the PRC's interests in the Arab countries, "has changed its mind" and is now encouraging relations with Israel.

To wit, the Israeli trade delegation conferred with Chinese Government officials in Beijing's Forbidden City, the seat of the Chinese Administration. Foreign delegations are not normally invited there, "and in China there are no incidental events," Gillerman said.

According to him, the Israeli Government must assign a commercial attache to Beijing or Shanghai.

"This could have been done months ago but was not, because the Industry and Trade Ministry and the Foreign Ministry have been arguing over which one of them should make the appointment.

"It is important for the commercial sector that a representative of the Industry and Trade Ministry be assigned there. In my opinion, it would be best to transfer the commercial attache currently stationed in Hong Kong, who has become an expert on the economic situation in China."

An official Chinese delegation is due in Israel next month, and a delegation of the Chinese Foreign Trade Council and Chamber of Commerce is due in Israel next spring on a reciprocal visit.

Aharon Fogel, another member of the delegation, described the next two decades in terms of the economy as "the decades of China." Fogel said: "The Chinese economy is sound. There is hardly any subsidization of commodities, the markets are full of goods, there is a single rate of exchange, and the services provided to foreign visitors are on a par with Western standards.

"Although the PRC is not yet ready for direct relations with Israel, we can conduct unlimited trade with them through companies registered outside Israel, and I believe that in the near future it will be possible to trade with them directly," Fogel said.

Moshe Schnitzer, president of the Diamond Exchange, said that an opening has been secured with regard to imports of raw material from China.

The delegation heads noted that China's foreign trade is not yet developed. China meets some 90 percent of its needs from its own resources. Its exports are valued at $50 billion and its imports total over $40 billion.

Complaint Against 'Desecration' of Mosque Lodged

JN1412213991 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 14 Dec 91

[Text] Jordan has officially lodged a complaint with the United Nations against Israeli desecration of holy sites in occupied Jerusalem. In a letter to Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, permanent UN representative 'Abdallah Salah denounced Israel's placing of loudspeakers on the wall of Jerusalem's al-Aqsa mosque. Mr. Salah said the Israeli move constitutes an extremely grave violation of the sanctity of this holy place, and a blatant provocation to the sentiments of Muslims.

House Discusses Government Policy Statement

JN1512184191

[Editorial Report] Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic at 1230 GMT on 15 December begins to carry recorded highlights of speeches delivered by deputies at the morning session of Jordan's House of Representatives held on 15 December to discuss the policy statement of Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir's government prior to a vote of confidence. King Husayn's 1 December address inaugurating the parliament's third ordinary session is considered to be the government policy statement. Eleven deputies address the morning session.

The first to speak is Shaykh Faysal Bin-Jazi, a representative of the southern bedouin tribes and a member of the National Bloc. He praises the king's 1 December address to Parliament and welcomes Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir. He praises Bin-Shakir for being the subject of King Husayn's confidence and wishes him success in his work. Referring to the Gulf states, he calls for opening doors with "neighbors" who "could have misunderstood us." He declares: "We are part of them and they are part of us. We accept nothing for them but happiness and good-neighborliness."

The next to speak is Husayn Mujalli, a pan-Arabist, who says that the Council of Ministers, in accordance with the Constitution, is answerable to Parliament. Therefore, he states, every cabinet should present a policy statement to the House of Representatives asking for confidence on the basis of its statement. He says that such a statement should include a specific plan addressing all of the country's domestic and external affairs. He declares: "In this context, we believe that this statement is void of the principles of a policy statement and does not include the required concepts, plans, thoughts, and steps to confront the grueling crisis that has been burdening the homeland, especially after the Gulf crisis." He further indicates that the policy statement does not address fundamental issues such as unemployment, high prices, and indebtedness.

Muhammad Abu-'Alim, speaking on behalf of the Constitutional Bloc, discusses domestic, regional, and international issues. On the domestic front, he calls for preserving and strengthening democracy, promoting Jordan's administrative system, supporting the Jordanian Armed Forces and security departments, and reconsidering the economic restructuring program in view of the Gulf crisis. With regard to the Palestine question, Abu-'Alim praises Jordan's policy and voices support for the PLO decision to accept the principle of direct negotiations with Israel. He stresses the importance of Arab solidarity and urges the government to work to "restore cohesiveness to Arab ranks." Dealing with international issues, Abu-'Alim calls for a unified Arab stand on the new world order so as to ensure the implementation of international legitimacy toward all international issues, under all circumstances, and in accordance with the same standards. Discussing the sanctions imposed on Iraq, he expresses pain that the Iraqi people continue to suffer as a result of an "international blockade which denies them food, medicine, and their most basic human needs." He adds: "We should all work with complete solidarity at all Arab, Islamic, and international forums to lift this blockade. Our efforts will not wane at the inhuman stands we might encounter. We urge Arabs, Muslims, and all friendly people who love peace and humanity to work to lift the blockade imposed on the fraternal Iraqi people." Turning to the Bin-Shakir government, he expresses confidence in the government's ability to apply its policy statement and to cooperate with the legislative authority thanks to the prime minister's "capability, patriotism, and sincerity."

In his speech, Faris al-Nabulsi calls for financial stability and criticizes some deputies for yearning for ministerial posts.

Mutayr al-Bustanji, speaking on behalf of the Independent Islamic Bloc, urges the government to adhere to Jordan's fundamental principles with regard to the Palestine question as indicated in the policy statement. He also calls for supporting the Jordanian Armed Forces, security departments, educational plans, and agricultural sector. He expresses support for the government's efforts to enhance Jordan's administrative system.

Dhib Marji notes that the policy statement covers many substantive issues. He voices support for several items in the statement, particularly the Palestine question. However, he says, the policy statement fails to address many important issues, such as high prices and the widening gap between the rich and the poor in the country. To address these problems, he calls for an effective price control system and a new tax system. He regrets that the government includes no female ministers. He affirms that his final decision regarding his vote of confidence depends on the government's answers to his remarks.

In introductory comments to Salim al-Zu'bi's speech, a radio announcer notes that he had expressed an objection to Jordan's joining the peace peace. In the recorded remarks which the radio then carries, al-Zu'bi deals with domestic issues, noting that the government is required to support the agricultural sector and to tackle the uneployment problem.

Sulayman 'Arar, speaking on behalf of the National Bloc, extends congratulations to Bin-Shakir and his colleagues for the royal trust placed in them. He hopes that efforts will be exerted to confront the unemployment problem and he wishes the government success in its efforts to implement its policy statement. Turning to the international sanctions imposed on Iraq, he says: "Strongly denouncing America's rancorous stand, which has put on the garment of the UN Security Council and international legitimacy, against Iraq—people and homeland—the National Bloc requests our government to continue to call for and work toward lifting the blockade imposed on Iraq." He adds: "Our vision will not be blurred by the stands of those Arab governments which want us to kneel down under the feet of the Americans. We know that, if facts have been made available to them, our people will rally, as always, around their historic leadership to build a strong Jordan that can dispense with all those who are hostile to it, thanks to the efforts of its people and the resources of its land." He declares that the National Bloc intends to make a vote of confidence in the government and urges other deputies to adopt the same stand.

In his speech, Nadir al-Zuhayrat says that agriculture constitutes one of the pillars of Jordan's national economy. However, the policy statement fails to indicate how the agricultural sector's problems will be tackled. He calls for addressing the problems of farmers, including the high cost of materials required for agricultural activity and subsequent debts. Concluding his remarks, he expresses confidence in Zayd Bin-Shakir's government.

Nayif Abu-Tayih, after praising King Husayn's leadership and directives, expresses support for Bin-Shakir's government.

Muhammad Faris al-Tarawinah questions the circumstances under which the peace conference is being convened and the role of the United Nations in it, noting that the recent world changes are in favor of Israel. He stresses the need for struggle to achieve Arab unity and social justice.

At 1357 GMT, the radio announces that remarks by other deputies on the government policy statement will be carried within subsequent newscasts.

House Discussion Continues

JN1512211491

[Editorial Report] Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic at 1610 GMT on 15 December carries an approximately 35-minute report on speeches delivered by four deputies at the afternoon session of Jordan's House of Representatives on 15 December to discuss the government policy statement.

In this session, Ibrahim Khuraysat delivers a speech on behalf of the Islamic Movement. He begins by stating that "the country is now passing through difficult circumstances and serious conditions." The Islamic and Arab nations face estrangement and feuds and the country is confronted with unemployment and poverty, he adds. He says that the position of the Muslim Brotherhood deputies with regard to any government is based on a number of principles, particularly the application of the Islamic shari'ah in all walks of life and the fact that "the question of Palestine is an Islamic, not a regional, issue. No Muslim who believes in God or the hereafter is allowed to concede a single inch of it, regardless of whether that Muslim is a ruler or ruled, an organization or a party, a group or an individual, or a people or state." He also stresses that the position of the Muslim Brotherhood is based on the protection of freedom for all citizens and national unity.

Discussing public liberties, Khuraysat says that "real security lies in justice, freedom, and respect for the citizen's dignity." He stresses the need to strengthen national unity, to support the Armed Forces and the Popular Army, to improve the salaries of conscripts, and to bolster ties among Arab countries, emphasizing that "Arab unity is our path to Islamic unity."

Talking about administrative reform, he says that "we ask the government to unveil the secrets and documents it possesses on corruption and the corrupted ones and to enable the House to see these documents."

Regarding the Palestinian intifadah in the occupied territories, Khuraysat says: "We call for giving material, moral, and informational support to the blessed intifadah. We denounce any media blackout on its jihad activities against occupation."

He then moves on to discuss inflation and price hikes and calls for raising salaries. He also discusses the education policy and welcomes a "comprehensive plan for improving our education system," calling for a law to allow teachers to set up their own professional union.

Turning to the media policy, he says that the nation needs a media that "delivers a noble message to raise hopes and morale and that builds an enlightened public opinion that is aware of the perils of the current phase and the schemes hatched against the nation," a media that "reflects the people's trend and highlights its will." The government, he says, is urged to "pursue an information policy that is based on the homeland's interests and that adopts the people's concerns and the nation's issues."

With regard to economic and financial policy, he calls for convening a "national conference for economic salvation" and the setting up of a specialized council to discuss the economic readjustment program.

An announcer notes that Khuraysat has stated the Islamic Movement Bloc's rejection of the peace process. The announcer also notes that Khuraysat said that the struggle with Israel is one over existence, not borders.

The report on Khuraysat's speech ends with a recorded excerpt of Khuraysat's statement announcing that the Muslim Brotherhood will withhold confidence in the government.

Deputy Muhammad 'Ali al-Dardur, an independent, addresses the House primarily about issues related to education policy and teacher training.

'Isa Madanat, a Communist representing the Christian seat in al-Karak Governorate, addresses the House and points to the need to "open the doors to democracy" and bolster coordination among the Arab parties participating in the peace process. Regarding economic conditions and foreign debts, Madanat says that certain measures have been taken to deal with the economic crisis, but that these measures "did not bring about a tangible change in the economic condition and failed to check price hikes."

Speaking also on behalf of deputies Fakhri Qa'war and Husni al-Shayyab, Amman deputy Mansur Murad calls for administrative reform and for paying attention to the economic conditions and poverty of citizens. He stresses the need to improve performance in the bureaucratic machinery to rid it of corruption. He calls for an information policy that runs "in harmony with the era of democracy and stops the regrettable bias in favor of the executive power." He also calls for an immediate end to the martial laws.

Concluding, Murad says that "we will support any government that meets with our positions and opinions and that stands on the side of the people and their interest."

The announcer notes that the session has been adjourned until 0930 tomorrow, Monday, to continue discussion of the government policy statement.

Paper Critical of Silence on Israeli 'Arrogance'

JN0712093691 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
7 Dec 91 pp 1, 27

[Editorial: "Murdering International Legitimacy in Washington"]

[Text] When President Bush was banging on the table demanding an immediate and unconditional Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, the world looked at that determination to apply international legitimacy with an admiration mixed with caution and with an appreciation mixed with fear. The reason for this admiration and appreciation was the desire to put an end to all regional and international conflicts and injustices. The caution, however, came from the fear that it was U.S. legitimacy, and not international legitimacy, that was dealing with the Gulf crisis. There was also the fear that the Western hatred against any Arab progress, freedom, salvation, and dignity would be behind the destruction of Iraq; the death of Iraqis by starvation, disease, and exposure; the death of children in hospitals and in their mother's arms; and even the death of fetuses in their mothers' wombs.

When President Bush was banging on the table, President Mitterrand responded by also banging on the table. So did Thatcher, then Major, President Gorbachev, and the Chinese president, may God grant him long life.

We are now watching the current spectacle in Washington and see that all the presidents are remaining silent over the Israeli arrogance and are keeping their hands in their pockets. They do not bang on any tables, threaten war, or warn Israel against continuing its disdain for international legitimacy and its resolutions. Even the UN secretary general, who was put at the forefront of the strike forces by the Western leaders, for six months banged on the table, clenched his fist, and made threats against Iraq for its continued "rejection" of the UN resolutions. Now he says nothing about the quarter of a century period of Israeli rejection. The secretary general, who had been charged with leading the political campaign against Iraq and of talking it into accepting "the UN resolutions," is not given any role or charged with making any contact or holding any responsibility. He is not even allowed to say a single word about the international body's resolutions pertaining to the Palestine question and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

We would like to point out that all of the Western media were put under the control of the CIA upon orders from President Bush, and that that decision was accepted on a national level by Western leaders. Everything that was said then against Iraq was meant to serve the preparations leading to the aggression against it. Now, in the case of the Middle East crisis, the U.S. State Department prevents the media from filming the Israelis' vacant seats in the halls assigned to the bilateral talks in order not to damage the strategic ally, an ally which spreads murder, aggression, and terrorism in our region with the help of U.S. weapons, funds, and support.

What does President Bush say about Israeli racism?

Where is Secretary Baker's defense of international legitimacy and its resolutions?

Why does the UN secretary general keep silent, and why do the members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives accept the insults?

And, finally, where are the media of the West, which now have a unique opportunity to atone for their crimes and lies and the tons of slanders, hatred, and falsehoods with which they bombarded us, the Arab nation?

Israel Reportedly 'Willing' To Discuss South

NC1412204491 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 2000 GMT 14 Dec 91

[Text] Media sources have cited Arab diplomatic sources in Cairo as saying that during its negotiations with the Lebanese delegation in Washington, Israel said it is willing to discuss the issue of occupied south Lebanon if the Lebanese Government accepts earlier Israeli proposals. These proposals provide for the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Lebanon, undertaking not to return them to Lebanon, establishing joint security areas, and specifying certain strategic points which Israel wishes to keep.

The same sources added that the Israeli delegation to the negotiations informed the Syrian delegation that the Israeli Government is willing to discuss the issue of the Golan Heights if Syria accepts in principle Israeli ideas connected with arms reduction, Israel keeping some important positions on the Golan, and an agreement to specify the areas where the Syrian Army will be stationed under these new circumstances.

Fire Damages AL-SHIRA' Printing Press

NC1612064691 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 16 Dec 91

[Text] A fire broke out at AL-SHIRA' magazine's printing press in 'Ayn al-Muraysah area last night, causing material damage. Cause of the fire has not been determined.

Authorities two weeks ago confiscated AL-SHIRA' from market shelves.

Intelligence Team in Beirut To Nab Hostage-Takers

AU1512142391 Paris AFP in English 0634 GMT 15 Dec 91

[Text] Beirut, Dec 15 (AFP) — A Lebanese newspaper has reported that Western intelligence officials have arrived in Beirut under diplomatic cover to identify those who captured and held the Western hostages. Al-SHARQ, a pro-Syrian daily, reported Saturday [14 December] that the officials, including Britons and Americans, are seeking to identify the names and nationalities of the hostage- takers. The paper gave no indication on its sources.

The mission is a "prelude to political steps that could create an international crisis like the one Libya is undergoing."

The paper predicted that Iran would be the next target of the West.

In Washington, an FBI spokesman confirmed that the organization was trying to identify those who held the 17 American hostages kidnapped in Lebanon since 1984, but he declined to discuss how.

A month ago, another Lebanese paper, AL-SHIRA', usually knowledgeable in hostage affairs, reported that the United States was training a group of Shiite Lebanese to track down the kidnappers.

Hizballah To Use Prisoners To Pressure Israel

NC1412175991 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 14 Dec 91

[Text] Hizballah Secretary General 'Abbas al-Musawi has stated: We will use what we have of Israeli and South Lebanese Army prisoners to put pressure on Israel to save our brothers in the Israeli prisons.

Al-Musawi Sees Army Officers, Communist Leader

NC1412103791 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 14 Dec 91

[Text] Hizballah Secretary General His Eminence Sayyid 'Abbas al-Musawi received a delegation of Lebanese Army intelligence officers, led by Army Chief of Intelligence Colonel Michel al-Rahbani, discussing latest developments in Lebanon and the cabinet's decision on redeploying the Army in Lebanon and extending its deployment in the south.

Al-Musawi yesterday met with Lebanese Communist Party Secretary General George Hawi and discussed forces coordination to confront the Zionist enemy, and local and regional issues.

At a joint news conference, al-Musawi said: We regard this meeting, and recent meetings with the brothers in the Amal Movement, the Progressive Socialist Party, and the Syrian Social Nationalist Party, as essential, particularly now that there are fateful changes at various levels. His eminence drew attention to serious decline, evidenced in the Madrid and Washington negotiations, and noted the humiliation facing Palestinians in the occupied territories and residents of the south and western al-Biqa'. He said that this terrible decline must be confronted. We attach importance to the resistance and to totally rejecting Israeli and U.S. imperialism's policies, he said.

Hawi said: We shared identical views on the need to confront American arrogance, which is trying to terrorize the world. We have no illusions about the surrender conference in Washington. He was concerned that the Lebanese negotiator could be drawn into the labyrinth of substitutes or possibilities on implementing Resolution 425. He warned the Lebanese delegation against making any concessions because this would be tantamount to giving something you do not own to someone undeserving. He said that the decision is in the hands of the Islamic and national resistance.

Resistance Issues Statement on Attack, Arrests

NC1612085991 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 16 Dec 91

[Excerpts] Proceeding from the principles of our great Islam and in observance of the orders of the guardian of

the Muslim cause Sayyid al-Khamene'i, may God keep him, the Islamic resistance and the faithful resistance have asserted that they will pursue the path of jihad and continue to fight the enemies and their agents. There is only one language to use with the Zionist enemy—the language of the rifle, which is all he understands.

A joint statement issued by the Islamic resistance and the faithful resistance said: In pursuit of the course of jihad and liberation and to mark the 11 December anniversary of the death of the mistress of the universe Fatimah al-Zahra', may peace be upon her, and with the call O Zanra', the Martyr Ahmad Dahir group confronted, surrounded, and struck at a Lahdist ambush on al-Qantarah-al-Tayyibah road. All members of the ambush were killed or wounded. The mujahidin also destroyed a Zionist vehicle of the enemy support unit sent to the scene of the clash.

The statement added that a resistance hero and commander, Martyr al-Haj Haydar Tony abu-Ghanim, died during the clash. The statement vowed to the martyr and all his companions to continue their path until victory or martyrdom. [passage omitted]

It was learned from a security source in the south that the occupation forces and their militia have arrested 23 Lebanese people, including three girls, in less than a month and taken them to al-Khiyam Prison in the occupied strip. The same report added that four civilians, including a trade unionist official in the Amal Movement, were kidnapped on 20 November by a group of Lahdist agents who infiltrated Majdal Silm outside the occupied strip.

Lahd To Resign 'When Peace is Established'

NC1412173091 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 14 Dec 91

[Text] Staff Major General Antoine Lahd, commander of the South Lebanese Army [SLA], has declared that he will resign his post when peace is established with Israel.

In a statement to REUTER, Maj. Gen. Lahd added that he had demonstrated good intentions in connection with the issue of hostages and has released some 85 Lebanese from al-Khiyam prison without any reciprocal action by the Islamic groups led by Hizballah concerning the SLA and Israeli prisoners.

In his statement, Lahd said if the other side does not reciprocate in this regard, the process will stop and it will be impossible to resume it.

Army Occupies Lahd Jazzin Positions

NC1412095491 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 14 Dec 91

[Text] Within the framework of rotating and redeploying the Lebanese Army brigades, the 11th brigade at dawn today completed its deployment in specified positions in al-Zahrani district. Checkpoints were established along the road from the Sayniq bridge to the al-Zahrani refinery triangle, and the approaches to Tyre and al-Nabatiyah. Soldiers of the Army's 6th brigade patrolled Sidon streets, carrying out searches, raids, and identity checks.

Informed sources in Jazzin district have affirmed that the Lebanese Army's battalion, deployed there for some time, has deployed in the Sujud, Jabal Safi, Radar, and Buslayya positions after the withdrawal of Lahd militiamen.

UNIFIL Speaker Denies Withdrawal From South

NC1312135291 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 13 dec 91

[Text] Timor Goksel, spokesman for the United Nations Interim Forces in Lebanon [UNIFIL], has denied the existence of any plan to withdraw the international forces from certain areas and to expand the deployment of the Lebanese Army to villages and areas beyond Tayr Dibbah at present. He affirmed that any change in the deployment of the international forces or the Lebanese Army can only be decided by the United Nations and the Lebanese Government.

Goksel told our reporter in the south that should the Lebanese Government decides to do without the services of the international forces, it should submit an official request to the Security Council when the current term for the UNIFIL ends which, according to Goksel, is a peace-keeping force.

He refused to describe the emergency forces as an occupying force. He highlighted that they are deployed on Lebanese territory upon request from the government. Responding to a question on the UNIFIL request to the army to intervene in the battles between Amal and Hizballah and their neglect to stop the fighting, Goksel told to Radio Free Lebanon the difference between this situation and others is that the battles are an internal security affair which is the business of the Lebanese authorities. He clarified that the status of the emergency forces does not allow them to settle such disputes.

He renewed his dissatisfaction with accusations appearing in some media which describe the emergency forces as an occupying force and accuse them of collaborating with the Israeli forces. He pointed out that this is the first time since his presence in the south where he is forced to break his silence and respond to the confusion created regarding the issue of Tayr Dibbah.

Speaker al-Husayni Protests Dumas 'Interference'

NC1412084591 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 14 Dec 91

[Excerpt] Lebanon will be preoccupied today with assessing the outcome of French Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Roland Dumas' visit to Beirut. In the view of our political correspondent, the primary goal of Dumas' visit was to underline the French presence in the Lebanese political arena. With regard to French aid, our correspondent says that this was discussed, particularly

during President Ilyas al-Hirawi's visit to France, when protocols were signed by the relevant ministers providing for loans and not grants to Lebanon. Another goal of the visit was to consecrate the restoration of normal Lebanese-French relations.

According to information obtained by our correspondent, Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni yesterday boycotted the luncheon held by President Ilyas al-Hirawi in honor of French Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Roland Dumas to protest Dumas' press statements, which al-Husayni regarded as interference in Lebanese internal affairs. Al-Husayni's boycott came within the framework of the boycott of a number of Islamic community leaders of a reception held by the French Embassy. These leaders are blaming Dumas for excluding them from his meetings and contacts. [passage omitted]

France's Dumas Departs; Leaders Comment on Talks

NC1312182891 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 13 Dec 91

[Excerpts] At a dinner held today in honor of Roland Dumas, French minister of state for foreign affairs, President al-Hirawi said the liberation of southern Lebanon from the Israeli occupation remains our basic goal and the key to reaching ultimate peace. He said that renovating Lebanon's infrastructure is essential for the return of Lebanese nationals scattered throughout the world and for the restoration of the effective role Lebanon constantly has played in the region. He pointed out that the reorganization of the state to enable it to play its role in safeguarding security and the people is vital to entrenching the action we have begun toward national sovereignty. He stressed that Lebanon counts on France, which always is ready to respond to its friends' appeals, stressing that the wager on France is guaranteed.

After receiving Dumas, Prime Minister 'Umar Karami said that the talks touched on the list of Lebanese nationals opposed to the Lebanese Government. He said he asserted to Dumas that it is unreasonable for the Lebanese Government to pursue those who staged a demonstration in France. He said that he asserted to Dumas that the government will not pursue those Lebanese who staged the demonstration in Paris, nor their families. Karami noted that Lebanon hopes France will assist it in its peaceful struggle to implement Security Council Resolution 425. [passage omitted]

Dumas, French minister of state for foreign affairs, left Beirut at 1700 today.

World Bank Grants Lebanon $700 Million

NC1412131891 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0415 GMT 14 Dec 91

[Text] At the end of the international seminar to coordinate foreign aid to Lebanon, 11 Western and Gulf states pledged to grant Lebanon $700 million to rehabilitate public services.

The vice president of the World Bank for the Middle East and North Africa has clarified that this sum does not include the expected amount from the World Bank Group. A bank official has described the Lebanese economy as astoundingly sound after 16 years of civil war. He said that the aid will be spent on projects to reconstruct essential services, such as water, electricity, and communications. Part of the money will be spent on housing for around 800,000 people who left their homes because of the war.

Further on al-Shar' Interview on Peace Talks

NC1312213391 London MBC Television in Arabic 2005 GMT 13 Dec 91

[Interview with Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' by MBC correspondent Nidal Qabalan in Damascus; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Qabalan] Mr. Faruq al-Shar', foreign minister of the Syrian Arab Republic; we welcome you on behalf of MBC Television in London at the beginning of this interview. You have participated personally in the first phase of the peace talks in Madrid. What is your assessment of that phase?

[Al-Shar'] The Madrid peace conference undoubtedly was positive. It focused the light on Israel's intransigent stand on the one hand, and the constructive Arab stand, which seeks peace, on the other. We believe the entire world has discovered the reality of the Israeli expansionist plans and has learned that the Israeli Government does not want to achieve peace. This was emphasized in Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's statement, in which he said that he does not accept the principle of land in return for peace, that Israel is too small, and that the area he is occupying at present is insufficient from his point of view. These Israeli intentions, which became clear during the Madrid conference, will help us Arabs in the future to take significant steps toward convincing Western public opinion, which has supported Israel for long decades.

[Qabalan] It was a landmark in media history when you brought out Shamir's photograph during the conference and uncovered his terrorist past. Many ask what Mr. al-Shar' had in mind when he did that. This is our chance to address this question.

[Al-Shar'] In fact, it never would have occurred to me to bring out a photograph of terrorist Shamir if he himself had not started by accusing the Arab side, particularly Syria, of terrorism. You know that Israel has been backing such accusations against Arabs for many years. Israel knows these accusations are false and groundless; many Western officials know these facts. Nonetheless, Israel has managed to mislead Western public opinion, particularly in the United States and Western Europe, to the extent that politicians there—even though they are certain the Arabs are innocent of such terrorist operations—cannot ignore the media, which speaks every day and accuses the Arabs of terrorism, even if these accusations are untruthful and unfounded. Therefore, I found it appropriate—particularly since it was Shamir who started to accuse Arabs of terrorism—to display before the entire world a photograph of Shamir, the terrorist who was wanted for conducting several terrorist operations against innocent civilians in the 1940's. I believe that message has reached Western public opinion and that it was well-highlighted. In my view, this is a significant step toward reacting to all the false accusations which Israel has been leveling at Arabs and Muslims in the past. [passage omitted]

Until this moment, Israel insists on keeping the occupied Arab territories. During his last visit to Washington and his meetings with reporters and with the Jewish lobby there, the Israeli prime minister said Israel, with its [present] area, is insufficient for absorbing Jews from all over the world. What does this mean? In the first place, it means putting all international laws under the Israelis' feet; it means violating the UN resolutions and showing disrespect for the fundamentals of international relations. Imagine every small state in the world using the same excuse Shamir used to annex other states' territory. What would become of the world? How many conflicts would arise? How would the world map be arranged? There are at least 50 countries which are smaller than Israel. How can we approve of the Israeli logic and keep the world map as it is now, if every state tries to annex the lands of others? No one who respects international law and relations can accept this erroneous and dangerous Israeli logic. No state in the world—no matter how friendly or allied with Israel it is—can accept such logic. We trust that the United States of America, one of conference's co-sponsors, never will accept that Israeli logic. The American people never can accept or understand such Israeli schemes or expansionist plans.

The problem is that until this moment, this Israeli ideology still receives some degree of responsiveness from the United States as a result of the Arab side's weakness in clarifying facts inside the United States itself, which is as a result of the Zionist lobby's considerable influence in America and the absence of joint Arab action regarding the Israeli and Zionist media activity in Western Europe and the United States. For instance, when Shamir talks about the inadequacy of Israel's land area, he may try to win the American citizen's sympathy. But when the American citizen realizes that such logic would mean that Mexico or Cuba could take large areas away from the United States, he will realize that this Israeli logic is serious and unacceptable.

[Qabalan] The pessimism you are talking about, which is a result of the intransigence shown by Yitzhaq Shamir and the Israeli Government during the peace talks, is countered by a kind of optimism reported by observers. They say that the new world order, which the United States and the Soviet Union want to establish in the world, does not allow Israel to be the regional power it has been for some time; the power which occupies the lands of others by force and the state which owns hundreds of nuclear weapons and so forth. Therefore, there will be some kind of actual American pressure on Israel to achieve a kind of peace, which at least guarantees the American strategic interests in the region. What is your comment on this view?

[Al-Shar'] In fact, we are not pessimistic. True, we realize that Shamir's government does not want peace. But Shamir's government is not eternal. World public opinion, and U.S. public opinion in particular, should have a considerable effect within Israel in the next months, particularly when all can see clearly that Israel does not want peace and that it wants to maintain a continuous state of tension in the region and keep it at

the boiling point. We are optimistic for the future, because aggression cannot continue; there must come a day when the occupation forces will pull out of the lands they have occupied. The UN resolutions must be respected. The international law cannot continue to be violated by Israel in such a serious manner while the world is a bystander.

Contrary to what some analysts believe, developments in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe are, from a certain point, positive and favorable for Arabs in terms of ending the Israeli occupation, and not the opposite. If we examine these great changes, we will find that they were based on independence for these states and the right to self-determination. Accordingly, the Palestinian people can only obtain their right to self-determination, no matter how hard Israel has tried for years to deny them that right. The entire world supports nations' rights to self-determination, particularly because the Palestinian people proved over many years—particularly during the past four years of their brave intifadah—that they are worthy of living and independence and that they must realize their goal of ending the occupation. Therefore, we never are pessimistic; we never feel that the future is against us. On the contrary, the future and the course of history will be against Israel, aggression, and occupation. Sooner or later, the world will realize that Israel is wrong and that this wrongdoing must be eliminated.

[Qabalan] Mr. Faruq; we now leave the issue of peace in the Middle East for another issue which preoccupied the Arabs and the world during the last six years—namely, the issue of the hostages. It seems that the hostages file has practically been closed after Terry Anderson's release. There remain only two German hostages, who are expected to be released in the next few days, and an Italian hostage whose fate is unknown. What is the Syrian role in closing the hostages file and how does this reflect on the world's image of Syria?

[Al-Shar'] Unfortunately, Israel has used the hostage issue in an ugly manner. To sum up the process conducted by certain Lebanese factions to hold hostages, I can say that it ultimately served Israel. The groups which kidnapped the hostages may not have thought of that; they may not have meant to serve Israel. But they ultimately gave Israel a serious and effective weapon to use in one Western capital after another to harm Arabs and Muslims. Second, hostage-taking has not practically served any Arab or Muslim cause. We in Syria are well aware that it was Israel which caused the hostages to be taken. If you go back to the history of the Arab-Israeli conflict, you will find that hostage-taking—particularly in Lebanon—only started after Israel's devastation of Lebanon and its continuous 85-day bombardment of Beirut, which claimed the lives of thousands of innocent Lebanese. We have to admit that tens of the relatives, brothers, and friends of these Lebanese abductors were killed as a result of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. Their conduct was a reaction to that barbaric invasion by the Israeli forces in 1982.

Although we understand what happened, we have to say that Israel benefited from the hostage-taking process and that Arabs and Muslims gained nothing. The process did not serve any of our just issues.

[Qabalan] What is the Syrian role in closing the hostages file?

[Al-Shar'] As I have said, Syria has been against hostage-taking from the outset. It did its utmost to prevent the abduction of new hostages and to release all those held in Lebanon. These efforts continued until they culminated in a happy ending a few days ago with the release of U.S. hostage Terry Anderson. Now we hope our efforts will succeed in releasing as soon as possible the two German hostages who are being held in Lebanon.

[Qabalan] How will this reflect on Syria's image in the West, which always had thought Syria was involved in this issue?

[Al-Shar'] This distorted image, which Israel has tried to imprint in Western minds and which was unfounded, by now must have been eliminated from some, but not all, Western minds. The strong Zionist influence on the media has tried to implant this image deeply in many Western minds. But I am confident that Western politicians—either in Western Europe or the United States—know very well that Syria not only is opposed to hostage-taking, but has helped release all the hostages without exception and did its utmost to do that. President Hafiz al-Asad was personally interested in this matter. [passage omitted]

Paper—No Progress 'Worth Noting' at Peace Talks

JN1412075791 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 14 Dec 91

[From the press review]

[Text] In two articles, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH comments on the second phase of the Middle East peace talks started in Washington a few days ago.

In the first article, entitled "For Expansion and Not Peace," the paper states that the Israeli ambitions of expansion and settlement building are the goals pursued by Yitzhaq Shamir's government. AL-THAWRAH indicates that the new Zionist settlement scheme to judaize Jerusalem, as disclosed by Israeli newspapers yesterday, confirms that Israel has taken off another mask before all, thus exposing its antipeace stance.

In the second article, AL-THAWRAH stresses the need for the Americans and Soviets to respond to the Israeli procrastination and provocative conduct, adding: This has become an urgent demand. Such a response should not be delayed indefinitely to prevent the peace talks from turning into a cover that could be used by Israel to deceive the world, while persisting in the pursuit of its expansionist and aggressive policies under the very nose of the world community.

For its part, the newspaper TISHRIN, under the headline "Israeli Prevarication," affirms that the second phase of the talks, currently under way in Washington, has failed to make any progress worth noting. The paper indicates that the reason for this is the continued Israeli intransigence and prevarication.

After listing a series of provocative practices committed by Israel since the start of the peace process in Washington, the newspaper TISHRIN asserts that the Arab delegations taking part in the peace process have shown credibility, and thus earned the appreciation of world quarters for the patience and flexibility they displayed.

TISHRIN urges the cosponsors of the conference, Europe, and the United Nations to intervene to prevent precious time from being wasted, and save hopes from frustration as a result of Israeli prevarication. TISHRIN adds: International resolutions are clear. They require each side to discharge certain responsibilities. As for the Arabs, they have committed themselves to the attainment of peace. Israel is yet to commit itself to withdrawal from the occupied territories, and to recognizing Palestinian rights to consummate the peace process. However, Israel refuses to commit itself to anything, and threatens the immense efforts made over the past months with its position. Furthermore, it is pushing the Middle East to the verge of an explosion, a matter which requires the world community to firmly and seriously intervene to end the Zionist intransigence.

Al-Zu'bi Receives DPRK Economics Minister

JN1512081191 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1915 GMT 14 Dec 91

[Text] At 1300 today, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received Mr. Chong Song-nam, DPRK's minister of external economic affairs, and his delegation. The meeting was attended by Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade; and Mr. Paek Mun-song, DPRK's ambassador in Damascus. At the outset of the session, the Korean minister conveyed greetings from Mr. Yon Hyon-muk, premier of the DPRK State Administration Council, to Mr. al-Zu'bi, who asked him to return the greetings.

Discussions during the meeting dealt with the close cooperation and friendly relations between Syria and the DPRK and ways to develop the existing cooperation in various fields, particularly in economic spheres. The prime minister was also briefed on the outcome of the Korean minister's talks with officials in Damascus. He emphasized the importance of these talks and the need to develop cooperation between the two friendly countries in the interest of deepened friendship and expanded cooperation and exchange of expertise in various areas. Talks also focused on a number of other issues that arose during the meeting.

Afghanistan

Soviet Weapons Airlift Reportedly Ends

BK1512124691 Hong Kong AFP in English 1234 GMT 15 Dec 91

[Text] Kabul, Dec 15 (AFP)—A Soviet airlift of arms was halted Sunday more than two weeks ahead of schedule, airport sources said, prompting speculation that the disintegrating Soviet Government has made its last arms shipment to the Kabul government.

The flights had occasionally been disrupted in the past three months by bad weather. Skies were clear here Sunday, but weather conditions in Tashkent, where the flights originate, were not known.

In September, Washington and Moscow agreed to cut arms shipments to the government and the armed resistance by New Year's Day, and sources here saw the early halt as a move by Moscow to woo Afghan rebels to hold talks with the Kabul government.

Soviet Embassy officials were not immediately available for comment on the abrupt halt in the flights, but the airport sources said the airlift had been shrinking over the past weeks with not more than two or three planes arriving daily.

An Afghan Government spokesman declined to confirm if the absence of the giant Ilyushin transporters, which usually ferry large amounts of ammunition and Scud missiles, meant the start of the arms cutoff.

"We have no confirmation if the weapons supplies halted today. It is up to them (the Soviets) to carry on the shipments till the last days or halt them in between," an Afghan Foreign Ministry spokesman said here.

"We are happy if it has stopped ... in any case we have enough (arms)," he added, referring to the Najibollah government's endorsement of the arms cut and apparently confirming expert opinion that both sides in the war have stockpiled arsenals large enough to support another two years of fighting.

Diplomats said the chances of the bilateral arms cutoff stopping the war—which has already cost more than one million lives—had been diminished by the likelihood that non-American supporters of the mojahedin resistance would continue their aid.

Among them are Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and a number of wealthy individual Arab patrons.

Diplomats in Kabul had said Moscow had planned to halt the airlift 15 days ahead of the orginal deadline in yet another move to try to bring Afghans to the negotiating table and closer to a ceasefire.

The halt Sunday could also be a blow to Afghanistan's fledgling export traffic to the Soviet republics, as the planes returned daily to Tashkent carrying merchandise.

The Afghan war has been the Soviet Union's most costly military engagement since World War II.

The flare-shooting Ilyushins, each with a carrying capacity of 65 tonnes, have been flying in war materiel for years and the flights were stepped up dramatically following the Soviet troop withdrawal in early 1989.

Last month several groups of mojahedin rebels reached an agreement in Moscow involving the release of Soviet prisoners of war (POWs) held by the resistance and weapons and combat-fuel supplies cutoffs to Kabul.

"It (the ahead-of-schedule arms cut) is a signal from Moscow to the mojahedin of its good intentions. All it wants now is the guaranteed release of Soviet POWs because the issue is turning into a political one in Russia," said another Asian diplomat.

More than 300 Soviet soldiers were listed as missing believed and captured during the war, but experts say that not more than 50 are now in the hands of several mojahedin groups operating inside and outside Afghanistan.

Najibollah Holds News Conference on Peace Process

LD1212223391 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1630 GMT 9 Dec 91

[[News conference by President Najibollah with foreign and domestic correspondents at the Foreign Ministry in Kabul on 8 December; unidentified moderator reads questions submitted to the Presidency's Press Office before opening the floor to correspondents' questions—recorded]

[Text] [Najibollah] Esteemed journalists, dear friends: It is a pleasure to see you again [words indistinct] it should be said clearly that whenever the process of solving Afghanistan's problem politically comes alive, especially after the UN five-point plan and the U.S. and Soviet statements to end the supply of arms to the sides involved were declared, interference and military pressure from the oppositions and their patrons increases. This time, too, especially after these creditable documents were announced, military activities intensified in a number of provinces bordering Pakistan—especially Gardez, Jalalabad, Laghman, and Zabol—and a number of cities were blockaded by closing the highways to prevent the delivery of the primary goods needed by the people. Fortunately, it should be said that such enemy plans were foiled in various regions as a result of the bravery and heroism of the armed forces and the cooperation and support of our country's people. The Republic of Afghanistan's armed forces have been able to defend the country's independence, territorial integrity, and national sovereignity with self-sacrifice and sincerity and with high morale, as in the past. It should be said that if interference and aggression from abroad ends and the ground is prepared for intra-Afghan dialogue—in other words, they allow the Afghans to solve all issues among themselves without foreign pressure and intereference—I can completely assure you that peace would be established in our country very quickly.

Dear friends, esteemed journalists: As for the Republic of Afghanistan's policy, we declared the national reconciliation policy five years ago. You know about the list of measures taken in this regard at the signing of the Geneva accords, when the ground was prepared for the withdrawal of the Soviet limited contingents. Among the list of accomplishments: A large number of armed opposition groups inside the country joined the reconciliation policy; the level of clashes among the opposition groups and the Republic of Afghanistan has been reduced; the new Constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan has been approved and amended; parliament resumed its activities after 15 years; a neutral government has been formed; the law on elections, freedom of the press, the observation of human rights [word indistinct], laws on facilities to development investment, encourage the free market, and attract foreign investment.

I should say, however, that all these measures have taken place unilaterally, on the part of the Republic of Afghanistan, to pave the way further for realizing the national reconciliation policy and national compromise in Afghanistan. The national reconciliation policy hopes to gather Afghans to reconcile and discuss all issues—even the complicated and tangled ones—so that they can be solved around one negotiating table. Unfortunately, interference continues from abroad in various forms.

We want the international community, especially the United Nations and all peace-loving countries, to know that the question is about allowing Afghans to sit around a negotiating table and that they should do all they can to prepare the ground for such a dialogue. Any issue which might have an Afghan internal dimension to it can be solved by the Afghans over the negotiating table. The guns should be silenced so that Afghans can hear each other talk. Therefore, a cease-fire should be declared, as mentioned in the UN secretary general's five-point plan and the U.S.-Soviet statement.

A cease-fire will guarantee that negative symmetry will be implemented practically in true form. Negative symmetry means that there should be no arms supply to either side; there should be no arms supply to either side; end the arms supply. It is not negative symmetry if it becomes negative for one side and remains positive for the other, dear friends. The United States, the Soviet Union, and the United Nations approved such a statement. We welcomed it, and it has been welcomed worldwide as such and is considered a step toward ensuring peace. The forces that issued and approved such a statement have a moral and political obligation to implement negative symmetry. With the implementation of a cease-fire and negative symmetry and the commencement of talks and dialogue among the Afghans, I can give you the good news that the peace process can start and conclude quickly. I can tell you clearly that there is nothing among the Afghans that cannot be solved; there is nothing that cannot be shared.

By the same token, we expect all international organizations, the United Nations, and the peace-loving countries that are interested in helping all Afghans come together through providing them with every opportunity to do so to start offering their humanitarian economic help and reconstruction aid to the Afghans, whose country has been destroyed by the 13-year war. They should dress the wounds of the people of Afghanistan. This is our stand, which I presented to you in a brief opening speech. I am now available to answer the esteemed journalists' questions.

[Moderator] Esteemed president: A number of domestic and foreign journalists have sent their questions to the Presidency's press office. I will ask you their questions with your permission.

(Markos Komalekes), correspondent for British TV and NEWSWEEK, and (Frances le Jeded), LIBERATION correspondent, ask: After the Soviets cease to supply weapons, which country will be the main weapons supplier to your country? Can you give us the figures on the amount of weapons that you receive from other countries?

[Najibollah] We feel that the United States and the Soviet Union ceasing to supply weapons and their action being followed by other sources that finance the arming of the opposition will bring about an opportunity through which there will be no need for all sides, including the Republic of Afghanistan, to seek the supply of weapons and ammunition. The cease-fire will be ensured and the peace process will begin when weapons stop arriving in our country. While the question of sending weapons to our country and to all engaged parties is an issue, weapons of mass killing, apart from the weapons needed to defend any country, should be collected. We have many a time suggested that if legal and lawful internationally credible guarantees are offered, Afghanistan will be ready to become a disarmed country.

As for the second part of your question—the amount of weapons supplied, especially to the opposition by foreigners—I think that they should provide these figures. Clearly, we can only know that the weapons, in any quantity, inflict endless pain and suffering on the Muslim and God-worshiping people of Afghanistan.

[Moderator] Thank you. The aforementioned journalists ask another question: What effect will the end of the Soviet arms supply have on the war?

[Najibollah] We consider the end to U.S. and Soviet arms supplies, which will begin—or has been declared as beginning—on 1 January 1992, a positive step toward ensuring peace in our country. We hope that the process to end the war will start with this issue. However, the effectiveness of this issue will be discussed when the negative symmetry I mentioned before is implemented in its true and complex meaning in a practical form by all the interested parties for all the sides concerned in Afghanistan. We have proposed before, and I now repeat for you, that a mechanism is needed to control the shipment of arms from all the borders: west, east, and

north. I hope that the United Nations and the Security Council make a necessary and practical controlling decision in this regard.

The other point I should emphasize—a point that I discussed in the opening statement—is the foreign interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs. These two issues—the observation of negative symmetry in its complex and comprehensive form, and ending foreign interferece in Afghanistan's internal affairs—I guarantee will pave the way for ensuring peace in Afghanistan very quickly.

[Moderator] Thank you. (Markos Komalekes), a correspondent for British TV and NEWSWEEK, and (Frances le Jeded), LIBERATION correspondent, ask: What is your reply to demands for your resignation? 1. Are you ready to become a candidate in the free elections? 2. Are you ready to resign from politics?

[Najibollah] A demand for my resignation has been made by those people who do not represent all the people of Afghanistan, to say it fortunately or unfortunately. I have requested sincerely and again request those people who demand my resignation to accompany me to the Afghan people's ballot boxes. We should submit to the will and demand of Afghanistan's people and not to the dictation and formulation made here or there. Only the Afghan people have this authority. If anyone wants to steal this authority from Afghanistan's people, they should note that history will not be made only for the few moments that human beings live; history will judge 10 years later, 20 years later, 50 years later, 100 years later.

Therefore, I say to all sides involved that (?it is time for) only the just judgment of Afghanistan's people and for election (?authorities). When anyone under any pretext says something like we are the representatives of Afghanistan's people, it will only be proved through the ballot box who is really the representative of Afghanistan's people. Why are they afraid of holding elections? If elections can be held in Cambodia, in Nicaragua, if the question of elections is discussed in Angola, then can Afghanistan be an exception? This country, no. We cannot solve the Afghan issue without elections and with prepared formulations and disregard for the Afghan people. This issue, even if solved, will be in a mechanical state and will not become a permanent and durable one in the future.

As for the question of how the transitional period's mechanism and how the consistency of stages should be arranged, I draw your attention to my recent speech to the Meli Shura [National Assembly] session just before it went into recess. All views were spelled out in detail. You can find your answers there. As for the first part of your question—whether or not you will participate in an election—I tell you, as I told you earlier, that since we presented national reconciliation and conferred this authority on the Afghan people, my proposal has always been that we must go to the ballot box. Therefore, participation in the elections is at issue. How can there be one exception—i.e., Afghanistan—and one exception—i.e., Najibollah—meaning that he will not participate in elections, while all countries claim that they are taking steps toward democracy, toward democracy. I feel that every person who is of age and is mentally sound can both run in elections and vote.

As for the last part of your question, retiring from politics depends on what kind of policy the politician have put forward. How did the people respond to that policy? Was it acceptable to the Afghan people, or was it rejected? Once again, elections depend on the Afghan people's judgment. The national reconciliation policy not only has been supported by the Afghan people but also has been in harmony with—we can say that it has not influenced—the ranks of the opposition, of internal commanders, of formations, of intellectuals in the West, of those based in Iran, of the world; with the resolutions of the 43d, 44th, 45th, and 46th UN General Assembly sessions; with the UN secretary general's statement; with the U.S.-Soviet joint communique. It is a policy which expanded enough so that even Gulbuddin [Hekmatyar] has expressed readiness for talks and asserts that he wants the Afghan problem to be solved politically. How will the Afghan people decide which politician will carry on on the scene and which one will step out of politics?

The one who told everyone not one year ago, not two years ago, but five years ago that everyone will come to its fold, remember they will. [sentence as heard] I have many a time told you that even Gulbuddin will also accept this line. As I explained the other day, however, I hope that there is not a game by some Pakistani military circles or its military intelligence whereby some will be expelled so that their candidates and their partners can be brought on to the political scene. This is our position.

[Moderator] Thank you. Kathy Evans, GUARDIAN correspondent, asks: Do you think it is time for the West to bring pressure to bear on Pakistan and Saudi Arabia to end mojahedin activities? Do you expect them to embark on such a policy from 1 January?

[Najibollah] Our primary wish is to ensure peace in the country. We ask all countries, including Western and all peace-loving countries, to help the Afghan people end war and ensure peace. Undoubtedly the peace-loving countries and Western countries should expect that they must bring pressure to bear on Pakistan and Saudi Arabia through various channels and take advantage of their specific international possibilities and positions so that they can take the path of peace and help restore peace in our country. They should welcome wholeheartedly and practically the UN secretary general's five-point statement and the U.S.-Soviet joint communique on simultaneously ceasing arms supplies to the sides involved in the Afghan problem. I emphasize and repeat that if the cessation of arms supplies by all involved sides to all belligerent sides is implemented and that interference in the internal affairs of our country ends, the war

will have to end. That is why we have persistently insisted on applying those two factors, and they are once again emphasized.

[Moderator] Ms. Evans' other question is: It has been predicted since 1989 that you would be overthrown without the Soviet Union's support. What is your reaction to this?

[Najibollah] As you know, leadership elections in all countries, including those who take steps toward democracy, real democracy, belong to the people. I think that our country's situation is the same. The Afghan president was elected by the Loya Jergah [Grand National Assembly] of the Republic of Afghanistan through direct, democratic, and free elections. It depends once again on the people of Afghanistan and on their representatives as to how they review the appointment of the future leadership of Afghanistan, how they will want to convene the Loya Jergah, and how they hold the general elections. We should not—and we have no right to—interfere with the authority and the right of the people. If their right is interfered with... [changes thought] if I resigned, if it were not totalitarianism but being elected for seven years; if I continued my presidency—this question might occur to some—it would be totalitarianism. Let us forget the question of totalitarianism and delegate this authority again to the Afghan people, through the Loya Jergah or direct, secret, and free elections.

Whether it be the Loya Jergah or free, secret, and direct elections, we will respect and value the results of elections regardless of who they elect. As far as the predictions you mentioned are concerned, I should say that any prediction must have a true and practical foundation. I think, as the experiences and the flow of life showed in 1989, it will again be proved that the practical realities of life in Afghanistan's society have been another matter. The flow of life will prove its correctness or incorrectness.

[Moderator] Thank you. (Nuralinov), NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent, asks: What do think about the changes in relations between the Republic of Afghanistana and the Soviet Union?

[Najibollah] Important transformations have taken place on the Soviet political, economic, and social scene, and I can tell you that even more transformations will take place and/or are being worked on. So far, we have not noticed any negative changes in the Soviet Union's relations with Afghanistan. This attests to the fact that Afghanistan and the Soviet Union established more than 70 years ago mutually beneficial economic, trade, cultural, technical, and other relations based on all the accepted international norms and standards within the framework of the principles of good-neighborliness, peaceful coexistence, and mutual respect for the national sovereignty and territorial integrity of our countries. I think that our future relations, too, not only will be protected in this direction but will also will expand and develop in the interest of the people of both sides. This is what our friends and neighbors—not just our northern neighbor, but all our neighbors—hope.

[Moderator] Thank you. Another question from the same journalist: A number of opposition prisoners are in your country's prisons. Can they be exchanged for Soviet prisoners? Why don't you take this step?

[Najibollah] The issue of releasing prisoners is generally a humanitarian and compassionate issue. As far as the Soviet prisoners and the oppositions' are concerned, the oppositions so far have not been able to specify the number of Soviet prisoners they hold. During the visit of the aforementioned delegation to Moscow and despite Moscow's request, they were unable to present a list of Soviet prisoners. As far as the Republic of Afghanistan is concerned, we have made all the necessary efforts on this humanitarian issue, and we will continue to try in the future. Our efforts continue.

So far nine people have been released as a direct result of efforts by the Republic of Afghanistan's authorities. Based on the media's facts, the total number of prisoners held by the oppositions will not be more than 35 to 40 people, while the oppositions want to benefit greatly from this issue for political reasons. A member of the oppositions' delegation who went to Moscow said that we have been unable to prepare a complete list for the Soviets, and put it at their disposal. The reason was that the number of them was small, and if we had mentioned such a small number or low figure in the talks it would have had a negative effect on our political position. This approach to trading the oppositions' persons for the Soviet POW's has a humanitarian and compassionate character. Regardless of any political issue and political trading, we declare clearly and decisively that we will not spare our humanitarian efforts in this regard. We will make immense efforts and without any political conditions in the future, too.

[Moderator] A BAKHTAR correspondent asks: We can see that the leadership council has faced objections by a section of the oppositions' forces. How do you assess this council's future?

[Najibollah] Fortunately, there was no word of such a disagreement when I spoke at the concluding session of parliament the other day. Only Sebghatollah Mojaddedi expressed his doubt about it. However, as I predicted, this disagreement has surfaced over the last few days. Why? For what, especially since they launched a political and propaganda hue and cry that they had great outcomes to their talks in Moscow? It is only over one point, namely the structure of this council. Do you remember the creation of the solution and rightness council in Rawalpindi and Peshawar? And similarly, the leadership council? And similarly, the formation of the interim government? I tell you, as I did the other day, that these councils will not yield any results if the hands of Pakistan's military intelligence and foreigners are involved. The aim of forming such a council, as I said in my parliament speech, is only to promote the extremist group, which is considered the partner of Pakistan's military intelligence. Disregarding the moderate section, the section of the commanders inside, the section of the

Islamic Unity Party in Iran, the regime and its political allies in Afghanistan, the king and his supporters in Europe, the technocrats, and the United Nations—which can not agree to such plan—will lead to the failure of such a plan.

It will deepen the tension among them. As we emphasized many times, a collusion in which the hands of foreigners are involved—and it is another shape and color of Pakistan's interference among the opposition formations—will never be acceptable to the formations themselves and to the movement in the general sense, abroad and inside Afghanistan.

[Moderator] The correspondents from British TV and NEWSWEEK and LIBERATION have another question: How do you feel about the UN plan on returning of the ex-king to Afghanistan?

[Najibollah] Based on the UN secretary general's five-point plan, as well as the plans and proposals by the state of the Republic of Afghanistan which have been discussed now and then, we have paved many ways for our compatriots' return from abroad, from the foreign countries, and for their participation in ensuring peace.

On Mohammad Zaher Shah, ex-king of Afghanistan, it should be said that the Republic of Afghanistan has also carried out considerable steps for his return and his participation in this process, in ensuring peace. It is now up to him and his friends. It also depends on other Afghans living away from the homeland who, despite these proposals and flexibilities in the current peaceful process of our country and the very sensitive situation in Afghanistan... [changes thought] the train of time is passing; if the Afghans—the king of Afghanistan among them—do not board the train on time, then—as we said many times before and say again—the way to the homeland's destiny will not be paved for them. We have paved the way for him, but the others will not pave it for him. Why us? We want all Afghans to get together. At the same time, it should be said that this participation by any and each Afghan, any political force outside the country, can determine and specify their positions in the future of Afghanistan within the political solution of the Afghan issue.

[Moderator] Dear journalists, you can now ask your verbal questions.

[GUARDIAN correspondent Kathy Evans, in English with simultaneous translation into Dari] I understand that the negative symmetry agreement calls for the withdrawal of the major weapons systems. One is to cut off arms. Negative symmetry has been accepted by the United States and the Soviet Union, so both countries will see the transportation of weapons by any side via satellite. If there is any violation recorded via satellite, then what do you expect the superpowers to do? What reaction do you want to see from them?

[Najibollah] If the question is what to expect from the world superpowers when they issue a credible statement and it is violated and recorded via satellite, then they should either accept that their credible statement has changed into a null and void statement, or they should use all types of sanctions and steps to implement it—that is, from economic sanctions to political and military sanctions, up to the Security Council decisions in this regard. There are past examples of this. As for the implementation of such a credible decision and statement and the decision made by the UN secretary general toward ensuring peace—the issue of negative symmetry and a cease-fire in Afghanistan—when they are being violated and the rest just sit and watch, and allow a few and a limited group of Pakistani militarists to astonish the world with their irresponsible measures and the others just watch, then I think that such an example will be rare in the world and will cause astonishment. Even those issues which could not be solved during the long years between Arabs and Israelis are being solved today. Will we not hear about Cambodia, Nicaragua, Namibia, Angola? Will Afghanistan be the only place where everything will turn upside down, where a sword will be used to destroy everything while the world and humanity just look on? What sort of judgment will it bring? Therefore, we [word indistinct] believe for the implementation of such a statement and such a stand by the United Nations.

[Evans] What do you say about the Soviet Union's strength, especially because the Soviet Union is disintegrating?

[Najibollah] We repeatedly approve of and emphasize the need for a political solution to the Afghan issue within the framework of the UN secretary general's plan, which the United Nations itself should implement politically, along with subsequent measures. At the United Nations, the Soviet Union—one of its members—and all the world community and member countries agreed at the 43d, 44th, 45th, and 46th General Assemblies that the Afghan problem should be solved politically; they also agreed on the statement issued by the UN secretary general based on these documents. We will study it within that framework, not relating it to just one or two countries.

[Unidentified correspondent, in English with simultaneous translation into Dari] You are already ready for elections. How will you organize these elections? The oppositions do not think your government can organize free and democractic elections, and you don't think the oppositions can organize elections alone. What (?will be) the negotiations for a deal to organize presidential or general elections?

[Najibollah] As for elections, we are responsible and are committed to the principle of elections. When the oppositions reach the point where they say that they do not want to hold elections—in essence, taking this authority from the Afghan people—then the responsibility will rest on their shoulders. Afghan society, however, has traditionally held Loya Jergahs in the past to solve political, social, and historic issues and even to appoint political leaders. We can also hold a Loya Jergah on a traditional basis. We emphasize that these Loya Jergahs should be formed this time by the Afghan people with their traditional and electoral character. Why? The issue is to

determine the Afghan people's destiny, so that they travel on such a path to peace, progress, advancement, and tranquillity.

They say that 95 percent of the country is with them, so why do they fear elections and not participate? How can we organize that? In general, the elections should take place under UN supervision. An organizing committee or committee for preparing elections could be formed—of course, with the participation of all sides—once that is acceptable to all sides. What will be this committee's duties? What issues should it organize or carry out? I think it should carry out its duties with a full understanding to provide a practical and working guarantee from all sides. It will establish a time for elections, and we will hold elections at that time.

[Moderator] Do you expect the Soviet Central Asian republics to increase their role in settling the Afghan problem, as the Russian Federation has done?

[Najibollah] I think [BBC correspondent] (Chris Bowers) knows how changes in relation to socioeconomic and political structures go. Not only Afghanistan but also other countries—the United States, France, England—readjust themselves as the social and political, as well as the sovereign, structure of the Soviet Union changes. Afghanistan should ensure its relations in all fields with the former Soviet republics—now the union of sovereign states—whether or not they join the new union. Nabiyev recently declared: We are ready to host the next round of dialogue in Tajikistan. We are aware of the good intentions of the leaders of other Central Asian republics—i.e., His Excellency Nazarbayev, the Kazakh leader; Karimov, the Uzbek leader; and Turkmenistan—and we welcome them. As has been noted by France and the United States, we need a stable region.

[Unidentified correspondent] The second round of talks between Soviet representatives and the mojahedin is imminent. How do you feel about the negotiations?

[Najibollah] We approve of and welcome dialogue with all sides involved, in principle. Although we have reservations about the recent visit of the mojahedin, or opposition delegation, to the Soviet Union—and we expressed these in the Republic of Afghanistan's statement and in an interview I gave to radio and television, as well as in a recent session [not further identified]—this is why we approve of all holdings of talks anywhere and at anytime between any side involved in the Afghan problem, whether it be between Afghanistan and the United States—the present regime and the United States—or between the opposition and the Soviet Union. There were tripartite talks between Pakistan, Iran, and the opposition in Islamabad and Tehran. It is important, however, to understand one principle, a principle that we have always highlighted, namely that issues involving Afghanistan's fate can only be resolved by Afghans, despite various measures and dialogues that prepare the way and which help Afghans solve the Afghan problem politically.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. President, my question is somewhat related to our Soviet friend's question. As you spoke about foreign interference and negative symmetry in your opening speech, and as mojahedin leaders consider the Soviet Union the side with the real role in settling the Afghan problem, I would like to ask, Your Excellency: Considering the objective realities of the past 13 years and considering past political reservations in relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan, do you not want to propose entering direct negotiations with the Pakistani Government—as the real side in the dispute—before January on ending the war and entering discussions on disputed issues between the two countries, on top of efforts for intra-Afghan dialogue? Another question I would like to ask is: If the negative symmetry of which you spoke is not implemented, how will the Afghan Government adapt to a situation without negative symmetry?

[Najibollah] As I told your Soviet friend, we approve of dialogue between all sides involved in the Afghan issue. You know—I think it was on the anniversary of the national reconciliation policy's declaration last year—that we declared that we are ready to hold a dialogue with Pakistan and avoid military confrontation and to embark on economic and trade cooperation and seek cooperation in other political, cultural, and technical spheres. We will discuss this principle before 1 January; it has been discussed in the past and will be discussed in the future. As far as implementing negative symmetry is concerned, I think that if Pakistan does not put it into practice, then it will not be negative symmetry—it will be negative asymmetry. The United States and the Soviet Union should consult and decide whether to approve negative symmetry or negative asymmetry.

[BBC correspondent Bagir Mo'in, in Persian with simultaneous translation into Dari] There is considerable talk about freedom and democracy in your media; there is also considerable talk about freedom and democracy among the oppositions abroad. What practical step can be taken so that the ordinary people can believe in and participate in this democratic process?

[Najibollah] There is an election law; there is a Constitution. We studied more than 60 or 70 constitutions of other countries on the path to democracy before we approved our constitution in 1366 [beginning 21 March 1987] and amended it in Jawza 1369 [May-June 1990]. The oppositions occasionally criticize state action; fortunately, we are proud to note that we have not heard or seen in the press one critical word from them. Based on this constitution, around 62 other laws and 58 bills have been passed by parliament, the representatives of the people. There are also the election law and the law on freedom of the press and freedom of speech—democracy, newspapers, and so forth. What else? What action, Bagir Mo'in?

[Mo'in] I meant that when a durable peace is established here, it will come to the stage that the oppositions abroad or the individuals inside the country should participate

in a complete political process to establish permanent peace. If such a process emerges naturally, the walls will collapse further. Can we interpret your views as such?

[Najibollah] Yes. There is no wall like in Germany [word indistinct] like the Great Wall of China. I should tell you one thing, Bagir Mo'in: Our assessment is such that all the international organizations and establishments should render assistance to Afghans to pave the way for dialogue, to help Afghans hold negotiations. All these questions should be discussed among them, including the question of a plan. All its components should be organized and prepared so that the peace to which you refer can truly be guaranteed. Once a plan, a transitional plan, is devised, it will pave the way for general elections. Between the plan's approval and the general elections, peace will be guaranteed; this is when we will be ready to discuss the issue that you are interested in, namely where the personalities and people should be.

This is our point of view and our thesis. The plan will be organized and prepared by the Afghans themselves without any interference, pressure, or formulation from abroad.

[Unidentified correspondent, in English with simultaneous translation into Dari] If the arms supplies continue to the oppositions after 1 January, what sources will you seek out to receive arms for your government?

[Najibollah] We are not seeking new sources; we are interested in seeing past sources of arms ending their supplies. On top of ending arms supplies, the weapons which I said before are so deadly should be collected.

[Unidentified correspondent, in English with simultaneous translation into Dari] I have heard your views on intra-Afghan dialogue. What type of dialogue do you have in mind to bring together the Afghans inside the country or those who are in Pakistan and Iran? What percentage do you want from your government to be represented in the dialogue?

[Najibollah] I mentioned earlier that to organize all the specifications of intra-Afghan dialogue, a preparation and organizational committee should first be established in which all the representatives of the sides involved can participate and, based on a full understanding, organize and prepare components of this plan and discuss the methods of its implementation and realization.

[Unidentified correspondent] Wouldn't you insist that half of the members of such a gathering be representatives of your state? Or 75 percent of it?

[Najibollah] We Afghans will find our way when we sit down with each other. We have various views that will be acceptable to all and which might be a logical way to bring us close to ensuring peace and the hope of the Afghan people.

[Unidentified correspondent, in English with simultaneous translation into Dari] You are not interested in any particular percentage of representation?

[Najibollah] The percentage, the consolidation, and all its specifications will be noted, but only when we start to talk with Afghans and not when we talk with journalists. [Najibollah laughs]

[Unidentified correspondent, in English with simultaneous translation into Dari] Is there a UN list? How many people are included in that list from the Afghan Government?

[Najibollah] We do not yet have such a list. If there is any list, we are ready to introduce a number of Afghans at various levels, with various specifications, and with a variety of and different forms and variants.

[Moderator] Considering reports on the war and clashes among various militia groups near Herat city, can you rely on the militia groups' loyalty to the state if the national reconciliation policy process accelerates?

[Najibollah] We asked (Chris Bowers) to visit our press center. Our press center told him: Please do not relay false information abroad. We objected to it this time, but next time we will take action. Again last night, a mere lie on issues concerning Herat—such as the militia supporting the state have clashed with each others, that all of the city's security lies in the hands of the militiamen, that the state is unable to ensure peace in Herat, and that the opposite side is also unable to capture Herat—all of these, from A to Z, were lies, (Chris Bowers). Whatever source in Kabul you quoted, do not give much credence to it. I will send you to Herat tomorrow, along with a number from here, too. When you return from Herat and see that the militiamen are not fighting among themselves, that will be enough.

[Moderator] What is your own view on the Pakistan situation? There are three sources of power: the president, the Army, and the prime minister. What is the future of the interservices intelligence branch? What are the possibilities of implementing negative symmetry concerning the existence of these powers, which are confronting each other?

[Najibollah] As a principle, we are interested in this issue, that peace and stability should be established in our region. This peace and stability can truly be established when we not only want peace and stability for Afghanistan, but the situation should also be stable in our neighboring countries. Having expressed this goodwill, we are interested in the fact that the very tense situation in Pakistan, too, is finding its way to stability. I don't think I should talk in detail about internal policies there. The differences between the militarists, civilians, military intelligence, and those in the economic sphere, as well as the Pakistani president, these concern their internal affairs. However, I can answer one question: As long as Pakistan pursues policies of interference and even aggression concerning its neighboring countries—Afghanistan, India—then the pursuit of this policy will not bring stability to Pakistan; it will make that country's situation tense.

I think the best principle is for all the neighbors to live in good understanding and good-neighborliness and to establish friendly and sincere mutual cooperation links in the political, economic, cultural, social, technical, trade, and all other fields without interfering in each other's internal affairs. The only path is the path of coexistence. We should follow in our relations the five components [as heard] of the coexistence principle, especially when we regard ourselves as a UN member and an Islamic country which neighbors other Islamic countries.

[Moderator] As I see it, the journalists asked those questions which they wanted to ask. Esteemed President, on behalf of foreign and Afghan journalists, I thank you for participating in this news conference, despite your many engagements, and for replying patiently to the journalists' questions.

[Najibollah] Thank you.

India

Further on Visit of PRC Premier Li Peng

Rao, Li on Border, Trade, Tibet

BK1312161291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 13 Dec 91

[Text] India and China have expressed their resolve to work together to find a solution to the border question. During their second round of talks in New Delhi today, the two prime ministers expressed satisfaction at the maintenance of peace and tranquillity in the border areas. They decided that confidence-building measures should be discussed within the framework of the joint working group. The delegations of the two countries agreed that the next meeting of the joint working group should be held early next year.

The Chinese prime minister, Mr. Li Peng, laid emphasis on the need to expand trade and economic relations between the two countries. In this context, he welcomed the opportunities to exchange views with the members of the Federation of Engineering Industry. To boost bilateral trade, Mr. Li Peng said his country will buy enhanced quantities of iron ore and tobacco from India.

Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, reciprocating the sentiments, said there is considerable potential for border trade between the two countries.

The two prime ministers also discussed the question of human rights.

Describing the talks as most fruitful, Mr. Li Peng agreed with his Indian counterpart that his visit is a much bigger development and marks the consolidation of the process started in 1988. He also expressed happiness that both the countries are engaged in removing their differences and are looking to a future of a common goal.

Mr. Li Peng invited Mr. Narasimha Rao to visit his country.

In a major step toward expanding and strengthening bilateral relations, India and China have agreed to resume border trade on the basis of equality and mutual benefit, reopen consular general offices at Bombay and Shanghai, and cooperate with each other in space research, technology, and its applications. These three agreements were signed today in the presence of Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao and Mr. Li Peng.

The Chinese prime minister has said that his country is prepared to have a dialogue with the Tibetan leader, the Dalai Lama, on all issues except independence. He said Tibet has been an inseparable part of China since the ancient time and so there can be no talk of independence. Mr. Li Peng was addressing a function organized by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations at Teen Murti Bhavan [Triple-Statue Building] in New Delhi this evening.

The former prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, and the Janata Dal president, Mr. S.R. Bommai, today called on Mr. Li Peng at the Rashtrapati Bhavan [president's house].

Court Orders Release of Tibetans

BK1312161891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 13 Dec 91

[Text] The Supreme Court today ordered the release of all Tibetan women and children arrested by the Delhi police for their demonstration against the visit of the Chinese premier. A division bench headed by Mr. Justice P.V. Sawant ordered their release by 2200 tonight [1630 GMT] on a petition from Janata Dal MP [member of parliament] Mr. George Fernandes.

Solanki, Qian on Pakistani Nuclear Role

BK1412161891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 14 Dec 91

[Text] India today conveyed to China New Delhi's serious concern at the inherent danger in external assistance to Pakistan's nuclear weapons capacity and missiles technology. During their meeting in New Delhi today, the external affairs minister, Mr. Madhav Singh Solanki, told his Chinese counterpart, Mr. Qian Qichen, that this could affect India's security and hasten arms race in the region. Mr. Solanki also explained India's position on the nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and stressed that proliferation is a global issue and cannot be tackled on a regional basis.

Mr. Solanki expressed concern at the open support to terrorists and subversives by Pakistan and said this is causing unlimited danger to the lives of the common people. He said India has tried very hard to resolve the differences with Pakistan through mutual discussions but Pakistan has not lived up to its assurances of a change in the ground situation.

Mr. Qian Qichen expressed the hope that New Delhi will continue its efforts to solve its differences with Islamabad through peaceful negotiations.

The Indian side gave a detailed presentation on India's policy with its neighbors. Mr. Solanki conveyed India's concern about the situation in Myanmar. He said India stands for noninterference in the affairs of other countries but supports democracy. He hoped that there will be a peaceful transfer of power to the elected representatives in Myanmar and hoped for an early release of Mrs. Aung San Suu Kyi.

On the bilateral front, the two foreign ministers discussed the possibility of giving an impetus to the improved relations which have been witnessed by the signing of agreements on trade, science and technology, and in the field of culture. The two sides agreed that continuous contact and dialogue between the two countries in view of the rapidly developing international situation will be in their interest. They also suggested exchange of parliamentary delegations between the two countries. During their meeting lasting about two hours, the two foreign ministers and their delegations reviewed international and regional issues.

Party Delegations Meet Li Peng

BK1412162291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 14 Dec 91

[Text] A five-member BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] delegation led by Mr. L.K. Advani met the visiting Chinese prime minsiter in New Delhi this afternoon. Later, briefing newsmen, Mr. Advani said the delegation requested Mr. Li to use his influence to restrain Pakistan from aiding and abetting terrorism in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir.

A three-member CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] delegation led by Mr. Harkishen Singh Surjeet, and a three-member CPI [Communist Party of India] delegation led by Mr. Indrajit Gupta also called on Mr. Li.

Li on Border, Human Rights, Pakistan

BK1612043891 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 15 Dec 91

[Text] The Chinese prime minister, Mr. Li Peng, says that both India and China must make necessary compromises and adjustments to facilitate a final solution to the border issue. Speaking to a group of journalists in New Delhi this evening, he said the boundary issue is a legacy of the past and should be tackled with sincerity and patience. Mr. Li Peng said the joint working group will meet early next year to discuss specific measures for maintaining peace and tranquillity along the border. He said his talks with the Indian leaders on the issue proceeded in a good atmosphere and tangible results have been achieved. A report by our correspondent Vaneeta Dipak:

[Begin recording] [Dipak] Even though the Chinese prime minister did not address an open press conference as is customary, his interaction with a few selected journalists this evening covered almost the entire gamut of bilateral and international issues.

Answering a question about the border dispute between India and China, Mr. Li Peng said that in any negotiation, both sides must make the necessary compromise to facilitate a final settlement.

[Unidentified interpreter] This boundary issue is a legacy of the past. So we should respect history and also take into consideration the status quo, and this is what is meant by mutual understanding. In any negotiation, both sides must make the necessary compromise so as to facilitate a final settlement.

[Dipak] He said to find a solution it is important to first have the sincerity and then patience because the border issue is quite complicated. The Chinese premier reiterated that the border dispute should not become an obstacle in furthering cooperation in other areas. At the same time, he said, we should continue making rigorous attempts to resolve the problem. Mr. Li Peng said that the talks were held in a very good atmosphere and this would facilitate the process of achieving the settlement. Mr. Li said that the world is changing rapidly and both India and China are different from what they were 30 years ago.

He said during the discussion on the international situation, both sides had much similarity and even identity of views on many issues. Mr. Li Peng said that both China and India agree that the new world order must be based on the five principles of peaceful coexistence.

Referring to the linkage between human rights and development aid, the Chinese prime minister supported India's view that there should be no resort to the pretext of human rights to interfere in other country's internal affairs. Mr. Li Peng said that for the developing countries the right to survival and right to development are the most important.

Answering another question, Mr. Li Peng said that through his talks with leaders of various political parties, as also the people from all walks of life, he felt that there was a consensus that India and China must put an end to the past and promote bilateral ties.

Referring to the issue of nuclear-free zone, the Chinese premier said that China supports all efforts toward a nuclear-free zone in South Asia.

Answering a query on Pakistan, Mr. Li Peng said that Pakistan maintains good relations with China. With improvement in Sino-Indian relations as well, Mr. Li said that China is ready to have good relations with both India and Pakistan on the basis of pancasila [five principles of peaceful coexistence]. He expressed the hope

that India and Pakistan would be able to resolve their differences through consultations without resorting to force.

Speaking about the process of economic reforms currently under way in his country, Mr. Li Peng said China was following a policy of building socialism with Chinese characteristics. He ruled out a dominant role for the private enterprise in the Chinese economy.

On the Soviet Union, Mr. Li Peng said that China [word indistinct] respect the choice made by the Soviet people.

Terming his visit as fruitful and his talks with the Indian side useful, Mr. Li Peng said that both sides were committed to maintaining regular contacts in political, economic, and other fields through high-level visits in the future.

Earlier, Mr. Li Peng called on the vice president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, at Hyderabad House. The two leaders expressed satisfaction at the outcome of this visit. Mr. Li Peng is leaving for China tomorrow morning. [end recording]

Joint Communique Issued

BK1612085591 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 16 Dec 91

[Text] India and China have agreed that their joint working group should step up the search for an early solution to the boundary question. In a joint communique issued at the end of the Chinese prime minister, Mr. Li Peng's, six-day official visit to India, the two sides said that the talks held so far by the group have enhanced mutual understanding.

Reaffirming that the efforts will be made to arrive at an early mutually acceptable solution to the boundary question through friendly consultations, they agreed to maintain peace and tranquillity along the line of actual control pending a final settlement.

The communique says that improvement and development of India-China relations is not directed against any third country, nor will it affect their existing friendly relations and cooperation with other countries.

The two sides expressed support for the peaceful settlement of all bilateral disputes between countries in the region through friendly consultations. The communique refers to the belief of the two countries that the international community should join efforts for the establishment of a new international, political and economic order based on the five principles of peaceful coexistence.

The Chinese side expressed concern over the continued activities in India by some Tibetans. The Indian side reiterated its consistent position that Tibet is an autonomous region of China and that it does not allow Tibetans to engage in anti-China political activities on the Indian soil.

Spokesman on Issues Discussed

BK1412175291 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1429 GMT 14 Dec 91

["Official spokesman's statement on visit of Chinese P.M. [prime minister] Li Peng Dt [dated]: 13th Dec"]

[Text] Prime Ministers of India and China and their respective delegations had their second round of talks this morning. These lasted nearly two hours. Prime ministers dealt with boundary question in their discussions this morning. They both expressed satisfaction at manner in which joint working group, at level of foreign secretaries, set up as a result of late P.M. [prime minister] Rajiv Gandhi's visit to Beijing in December 1988, had been fulfilling its responsibilities. They said that joint working group must redouble their efforts in order to find a solution which was "fair and reasonable". Indian and Chinese delegations agreed that next meeting of joint working group should be held in early 1992, and that dates for this should be worked out through diplomatic channels. Two prime ministers expressed their resolve to work together in order to find a solution to border question. Two prime ministers also expressed satisfaction at maintenance of peace and tranquillity in border areas. They both recognised importance of continuing to maintain such peace and tranquillity. To achieve this objective, they decided that confidence building measures should be discussed within framework of joint working group. They both agreed that mechanism of periodic meetings of border personnel from both sides, which was already in place, could help to resolve problems at local level.

Two prime ministers also discussed a wide range of international economic issues, including GATT. It was agreed that officials of both sides should remain in touch. Chinese prime minister laid considerable emphasis on need to expand trade and economic relations between two countries. He said that China on its part, was committed to increasing our bilateral trade from present level which is about U.S. dollar 250 million. He ascribed this low level of trade to existence of an "information gap", because over last 30 years, there had not been sufficient exchanges. In this context, he welcomed opportunity given to him to interact with members of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry and Confederation of Engineering Industries. He said that this was a good practice which we should encourage and continue. He further indicated that in order to boost trade levels, China would buy enhanced quantities of iron-ore and tobacco. Prime minister of India fully reciprocated sentiments and wishes in this regard expressed by Chinese prime minister, and said that there was considerable potential for border trade between two countries. In this context, he expressed satisfaction at fact that an agreement on border trade had been finalised and signed.

Two prime ministers also discussed question of human rights. Indian prime minister said that we give central

importance to issue of development. He pointed out that india's system was fully transparent, open and democratic, with an independent judiciary. He said that it was not desirable to use question of human rights, as a condition for denying aid to developing countries.

Indian prime minister said visit of Li Peng had been a most useful one, as it not only continued process begun by epoch-making visit of Rajiv Gandhi in December 1988, but that it also give a significant impetus to our bilateral relationship, and would give it a new momentum. He assured Chinese prime minister that India would work towards bringing cooperation with China to new levels. He further assured Chinese prime minister, on behalf of people and Government of India that on our part, we would work with utmost sincerity to continue to build our relationship in spirit in which we started, in December 1988. He expressed satisfaction that officials in respective space departments had already had contacts and visits had already taken place to Trivendrum and Hyderabad. It was gratifying that work of appraisal had begun.

Chinese prime minister agreed that two-day talks held with his Indian counterpart had been most fruitful. He said that an in-depth exchange of views had taken place on many matters of common concern and in some issues, agreement had been reached. Chinese prime minister also agreed with Indian prime minister that this visit, marked not only consolidation of process begun in December 1988, but was in a sense a much bigger development. He expressed happiness that both countries were engaged in removing differences that existed and were looking forward to future. Towards achieving that common goal, he said, India and China had taken a major step in right direction. Chinese prime minister on behalf of Chinese Government invited Indian prime minister to visit China, saying that he was confident that such a visit would serve to further promote cooperation and friendship between two countries. Indian prime minister accepted invitation and said that he looked forward with much pleasure to possibility of undertaking a visit to China. In response to a question on Chinese reaction to Indian view on human rights, spokesman said, Chinese prime minister spoke of a white paper that Chinese Government have published and explained Chinese view on this issue. When asked to eleborate on contents of white paper, spokesman said such questions should be addressed to Chinese. When asked if there was any conformity in views of India and China on human rights, spokesman replied that answer was perfectly evident from his briefing.

In response to a question on boundary issue, spokesman reiterated that two prime ministers said that joint working group (JWG) should redouble its efforts and move quickly towards finding a solution.

When asked if there was any reference of NPT [nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty], spokesman said he was not aware of any reference to NPT in discussions.

In response to a question on Soviet Union, spokesman said two prime ministers had a discussion on Soviet Union yesterday. India spoke about its close relationship with Soviet Union and various republics and was watching situation there with concern. India hoped that soon things would find a level, so that it could strengthen its relationship with various constituent republics, which process had already begun.

In response to another question on arms build-up on border in context of Pakistan, spokesman said Pakistan was not a subject for discussion.

In response to a question on nuclear-weapons free zone, spokesman said it was not discussed.

When a correspondent drew attention of spokesman towards Indian PM's remarks making a reference to transparent political system, and his mention of judiciary, spokesman elaborated saying prime minister meant entire system including 'press', resilience of Indian press, which is a great factor in preservation and protection of human rights in general context of describing Indian system. A free press and an independent judiciary and our own human rights organisations are quite capable of looking after human rights of our own citizens and those living in this country.

Spokesman, in response to another question, said PM's reference to judiciary had no connection with Tibetans.

In response to a question as to what was meant by redoubling of efforts by joint working group, spokesman elaborated saying that way JWG was functioning, progress it had made, was quite satisfactory. PM's had reviewed work of JWG and satisfaction was expressed at pace and content of progress achieved. Spokesman added that PM's had personally committed themselves to work together to resolve issue. When asked if it meant that PM's would personally work towards finding a solution to border problem, spokesman said that when leaders of two countries committed themselves personally to resolution of a problem, we should take statement of their resolve at face value. Spokesman further clarified that JWG would remain principal forum for discussion on boundary question.

On question of whether Super-301 [U.S. trade act] figured in discussions, spokesman said when two sides discussed international economic question, question of Super-301 did come bu [as received]. When questioned further, he said that our views had been stated several times and were known.

In response to a question as to why so much importance had been given by two prime ministers to late Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's visit to China, spokesman said that both sides, very genuinely and sincerely, believed that that was a historic visit, which broke ice, a freeze in relationship was broken by that visit. It was genuinely accepted as a turning point and that is why spokesman kept reiterating it. Process of which this visit was a part, started with that courageous

and historic visit by Rajiv Gandhi to Beijing. On question of Chinese position on Kashmir, spokesman referred to his briefing on previous day.

When asked about Chinese reaction on India's stand on Tibet, spokesman reiterated that Chinese have expressed their appreciation for stand India has taken.

In response to a question as to whether India was not concerned with Chinese view on Kashmir, spokesman said India had no reason to be.

Last question was a provocative one put NEW YORK TIMES correspondent it was framed as follows:

What exactly India had achieved? It seemed that Chinese have got away with an advantage on Tibet and India had got worst part of bargain, by getting nothing on Kashmir. It would appear that in this deal, Indian prime minister has been manipulated: There had been no forward movement on boundary question, nothing concrete had emerged: There was, of course, some rhetoric. In reply, spokesman said correspondent was adopting an excessively narrow approach to entire gamut of diplomatic intercourse and inter-state relations and to historic visit of Chinese Prime Minister to India. It was not possible to draw these kind of sharp lines in relationship of two civilisations which are five thousand year old. Visit of Rajiv Gandhi three years ago and present one must be seen as part of a process: Diplomatic relations are a continuing process. Spokesman said forward or backward movement must be measured by a different yardstick, from one correspondent had adopted. It would be highly simplistic on part of any one, to suggest that any Indian leader or Indian prime minister would ever allow himself to be manipulated in any sense. Spokesman said such insinuations did very little credit to great wisdom and maturity that Indian leadership under this prime minister has displayed. Further, it was a highly narrow and limited vision which would expect that a visit of such a historical nature as this one was, should lead to any trade-off or bargain. Spokesman said we were not in business of trade offs and bargains. We were in process of building a relationship between two largest countries in world: When we arrive at a meeting of minds, where we are able to review progress that has been made, when at highest level, we are able to make each other aware about each other's concerns, anxieties, interests or problems, we are in process of helping to build confidence between our two governments and our two peoples.

Same correspondent of NEW YORK TIMES asked whether Li Peng would go back and announce that he had benefitted more after this visit. Spokesman said he doubted very much whether Li Peng would go back and make a statement of this sort. Spokesman reiterated point made earlier in his briefing, where he had said that both prime ministers concluded on exactly same note, that they both felt that visit was highly successful and a highly fruitful one. Both India and China hoped to benefit from this visit, as, indeed, we hope to benefit from all other high-level visits. As far as rhetoric referred to by correspondent was concerned, spokesman explained that reference was to a concern that was genuinely felt by developing countries: that world was an imbalanced one and that efforts on part of some countries to delay rectification of such imbalances as quickly and as speedily as developing countries would like, was a matter of concern. Spokesman said it would be highly inaccurate to reach conclusion that visit achieved little. Both prime ministers stressed forcefully need to build a new world order, on basis of five principles of coexistence laid down by our two prime ministers i.e., non-interference in each other's internal affairs, mutual respect for each other's respective sovereignties. Spokesman said he would again reiterate that visit has to be seen in global and historical context: It is building of a relationship between two large and important neighbours. World should welcome this development rather than try to find non-existent reasons why visit was unsuccessful. It was a factor for stability and progress in world, when world's largest and most populous countries, 'wo billion people were able to live in a spirit of friendship and cooperation: Obviously, entire world stands to benefit from this.

Li Departs; Rao Comments on Visit

BK1612064891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0630 GMT 16 Dec 91

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, has said that there has not been much progress on the border issue with China. He said, however, the visit of the Chinese prime minister assured that the dialogue to further normalize relations will continue. Mr. Rao was talking to newsmen after seeing off the Chinese prime minister, Mr. Li Peng, after his six-day visit to India.

Earlier, Mr. Li was given a ceremonial sendoff at Rashtrapati Bhavan. The contingents of the Army, Navy and Air Force presented him a guard of honor while the bands played the national anthems of both the countries. The prime minister, his cabinet colleagues, and diplomats were also present on the occasion.

Commentary Views Outcome of Visit

BK1612052291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 16 Dec 91

[Journalist John Dayal commentary]

[Text] Both India and China have reason to be satisfied as Premier Li Peng concludes his six-day official visit to New Delhi today. This is because of the first visit by a Chinese prime minister in 31 years. But the initiative to break the impasse in bilateral relations had been indeed taken by India when the former prime minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, took a politically courageous step and decided to go to Beijing. An important decision taken during his discussions with the Chinese leadership was to open serious dialogue on the question of the Sino-India border. Many issues remain unresolved on the border since the Chinese invasion of 1962, and the joint

working group that was set up during Mr. Gandhi's visit was meant to take a detailed look at all factors and prepare the groundwork for a political settlement.

The progress on this work has, however, been slow. It is to the credit of the P.V. Narasimha Rao government that they have been able to bring Mr. Li Peng to commit China firmly on resolving the border question that will keep into account the national sentiments of both countries. This is a step forward as the Chinese wanted to put the spotlight on bilateral cooperation rather than on resolving the contentious issue. Bilateral cooperation is essential, and raising the so far minor border trade level will help the economy of the areas along the Sino-Indian border.

China is a major competitor of India in the international market. And with that extent, cooperation such as joint ventures in third countries can be mutually beneficial. China itself is, of course, a major market as is India, and there is great potential for bilateral trade.

Li Peng has therefore appreciated the outcome of his meetings with trade and industry organizations in India. Mr. Rao also took the opportunity to discuss with the Chinese leader India's concerns in the changing international political and economic environment. China shares India's views that the global environment has changed radically since the end of the cold war and the fragmentation of the Soviet Union.

China as a nuclear power has an approach different from India on issues such as the nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, and more important, on the moves that Pakistan has been taking for a five-nation conference on keeping South Asia as a nuclear-weapon-free zone.

China has always envied India's clout with the Third World, and Mr. Li Peng certainly used the visit to gain larger international acceptance after coming under a cloud for its civil liberties record. Mr. Li Peng came out sharply against terrorism affecting several Indian states and maintained that the issue of Kashmir is best resolved by direct talks between India and Pakistan.

Trade Talks Initiated With Soviet Republics

BK1612052691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0435 GMT 16 Dec 91

[Text] India has started bilateral trade negotiations with individual Soviet republic states which are moving forward to forming a commonwealth of their own. Disclosing this to newsmen at Tirupur in Tamil Nadu, the union commerce minister, Mr. P. Chidambaram, said that trade agreements have already been reached with Uzbekistan and trade talks are going on with five other republics, including the Ukraine, Russia, and Kazakhstan.

Earlier, inaugurating a training institute, Mr. Chidambaram ruled out further devaluation of the rupee.

Government 'Concerned' by Blockade of Iraq

BK1612092291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 16 Dec 91

[Text] India is seriously concerned over the nonavailability of medicines and food in Iraq as a consequence of UN economic sanctions against that country. The external affairs minister, Mr. Madhav Singh Solanki, informed the Rajya Sabha that New Delhi has taken up the matter at the UN Security Council for easing the sanctions against Iraq and it is under consideration of that body.

Finance Official on Foreign Exchange Reserves

BK1412164491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 14 Dec 91

[Text] The minister of state for finance, Mr. Rameshawar Thakur, has said that foreign exchange reserves of the country have crossed 8,000 crore rupee mark. He was addressing the Rajasthan Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Jaipur.

The minister said now only those units which will earn profit in a competitive environment can remain in the private and the public sectors.

Iran

Resumption of Relations With Morocco Announced

LD1612113391 Tehran IRNA in English 1011 GMT 16 Dec 91

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 16, IRNA—Iran and Morocco Monday decided to resume diplomatic relations and reopen their missions in their respective capitals at the ambassadorial level, a Foreign Ministry statement said here today.

The statement noted that the measure was taken in line with the historical ties which bound the two nations together and in order to develop such relations.

The decision, the statement added, was also made with firm belief in the necessity of mutual cooperation to serve goals of the Muslim ummah, restore its dignity, and guarantee its progress.

Tehran and Rabat cut off relations in 1981.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Arrives in Sudan on Visit

LD1312214991 Tehran IRNA in English 1811 GMT 13 Dec 91

[Text] Khartoum, Dec. 13, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani of Iran arrived in the Sudanese capital of Khartoum Friday afternoon at the head of a high-ranking delegation on a four-day state visit.

The Iranian president was greeted to a warm welcome by Head of the Sudanese Revolutionary Command Council

General 'Umar al-Bashir and top-ranking Sudanese officials. The national anthems of the two countries were played and the Iranian president then reviewed the guard of honour.

The Khartoum Airport and the roads from the airport to city are decorated by the flags of the Islamic Republic of Iran, posters of the late founder of the Islamic republic Imam Khomeyni, leader of the Islamic revolution Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i and President Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Massive crowd of people had gathered at the airport and the roads from the airport to President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's residence. They were waving the flag of the Islamic Republic of Iran and chanting slogans in support of the Islamic revolution and the Iranian leaders. At several occasions the president's car had to stop because of the huge crowd and the president responded to their unprecedented enthusiasm.

The Iranian president arrived in Khartoum from the Senegalese capital of Dakar where he attended the sixth Islamic summit conference which ended Thursday.

The Khartoum television has been interrupting its ordinary programs throughout Friday airing announcements by the Iran-Sudan Friendship Society informing capital city residents of the arrival of the Iranian president.

The Khartoum dailies since Tuesday have been printing articles on Iran and pictures of the late Imam Khomeyni, Ayatollah Khamene'i and President Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani right after arrival started first round of talks with General 'Umar al-Bashir. He is to attend a dinner banquet given in his honour by the Sudanese leader Friday night.

Karubbi Comments on Departure for PRC, Yemen

LD1512164791 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 15 Dec 91

[Excerpts] Mr. Karrubi, speaker of the Majles, on the first leg of his trip to China and Yemen, this afternoon left for Beijing.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] [passage omitted] Before departure, Mr. Karrubi, in an interview with the Voice & Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, said in connection to his trip to these two countries:

[Karrubi] Some representative groups have gone there and some representatives of the People's Congress have come to Iran and they were following up the matter through the embassy for us to go on this trip. So this is an invitation that we are fulfilling and we will also have talks. Also, regarding Yemen, they also had invited me sometime ago; their deputy speaker was here—he came during the support for Palestine conference. They had written letters previously inviting us there and now we are glad to be able to go.

[Correspondent] Mr. Karrubi, you are also being accompanied by a political-economic delegation on this trip. Will any protocols for cooperation or anything be signed between these countries and the Islamic Republic or not?

[Karrubi] Because of the opportunity provided by this visit we invited respected ministers to accompany us—respected ministers of commerce and agriculture and naturally we will be discussing and holding talks on economic, agricultural, and such issues.

[Correspondent] Thank you. [end recording]

Industry Minister, PRC Counterpart Comment

NC1412134791 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 14 Dec 91

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran and China have signed a memorandum of understanding on industrial cooperation. Our correspondent reports that He Guangyuan, PRC minister of machine-building and electronics, left Tehran this morning after signing the agreement and was seen off by Minister of Heavy Industries Nezhad-Hoseynian.

Before leaving Tehran, the PRC minister of machine-building and electronics described his talks with our country's officials as satisfactory and said: The signing of a memorandum of understanding between the Islamic Republic of Iran and China proves that these talks were positive.

Commenting on the memorandum, Heavy Industries Minister Nezhad-Hoseynian said: On the basis of this memorandum of understanding the two countries will cooperate in establishing joint industrial design engineering companies; building equipment for the oil, gas, petrochemical, and electricity industries; developing maritime industries; and building heavy diesel motors and electric motors. The minister of heavy industries added: These companies will operate in the field of designing industrial production lines and will participate in international bids and investments for joint projects. According to Nezhad-Hoseynian, details on how these companies will operate will be studied during the next three months through visits of delegations of experts to both countries.

The memorandum of understanding states that the Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to export buses, minibuses, trucks, and high-capacity six-cylinder motors and that China is ready to export tractor tires and equipment needed by the oil and petrochemical industries.

Habibi Receives Soviet Azerbaijan Official

LD1412182491 Tehran IRNA in English 1626 GMT 14 Dec 91

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 14, IRNA—First Vice-President Hassan Habibi received visiting Vice-Speaker of the Soviet Republic of Azerbaijan's Parliament Ziad Samadzadeh here today.

Samadzadeh in the meeting said that Azerbaijan needs Iranian assistance in various areas. "We are very happy that a Muslim and powerful country like Iran stands by us," he added.

Habibi in reply said Iran carefully follows the latest developments in the Soviet Union, and welcomes expansion of ties with the Azerbaijanis. "We are happy that your people are involved in determining their fate more than before," Habibi said.

"As we have announced time and again Iran is ready to expand its ties with the Soviet Republic of Azerbaijan," he stressed.

Habibi Wants UN To Implement Resolution 598

LD1612120691 Tehran IRNA in English 0928 GMT 16 Dec 91

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 16, IRNA—First Vice President Hasan Habibi on Monday called on the United Nations chief Javier Perez de Cuellar to take steps towards implementation of all articles of the UN Resolution 598 before his tenure comes to end by the turn of the year.

Speaking at his weekly press conference, government spokesman Habibi warned that in case of the world body's failure to take steps towards forcing Iraq to pay war reparations, Iran, in accordance with international norms, can materialize enforcement of the remaining articles of the resolution becuase of the fact that the Iraqi regime has been named by the UN as the aggressor party in the 1980-88 war.

The Security Council Resolution 598, accepted by Iran in July 1988 established cease-fire on 20 August 1988 after almost eight years of Ba'athist aggression against the Islamic Republic.

Habibi also told reporters that an additional 1 billion rials has been allocated to the areas afflicted by floods over the past week.

On government's plan to remove poverty from the country, he said the potentials which could be employed to this end have been spent on reconstruction of the war-devastated areas. However, he hoped the standard of living throughout the country will rise up to a favorable level in the next few years.

UN Human Rights Envoy's Visit Criticized

NC1412214391 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 9 Dec 91 p 2

[Unattributed commentary: "Galindo Pohl—Is He Independent or an Agent?"]

[Text] Reynaldo Galindo Pohl, special envoy of the UN International Human Rights Commission, arrived in Tehran yesterday morning at the head of a delegation. This is his third visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran during the past two years and all three of his missions were aimed at investigating the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The UN International Human Rights Commission does not have a positive record as far as the Iranian people are concerned. For 10 years this commission has had a completely hostile attitude toward the Islamic Republic of Iran and has been one of the main encouragers of lies about "the violation of human rights in Iran" to the rest of the world. The first stance by this organization against the Islamic Republic of Iran was after the occupation of the American den of spies in Tehran in 197[illegible] in the form of a hostile statement against the Islamic revolution. The last statement by this organization until Mr. Galindo Pohl was appointed to the UN International Human Rights Commission in autumn of 1989 was a statement based on documents produced by Baha'i's and monafeqin [hypocrites—used to described the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization] condemning what it called "the violation of human rights in Iran." After being appointed head of the UN Human Rights Commission, Galindo Pohl tried to adopt an apparently more realistic approach on the judicial system of the Islamic Republic of Iran and on the situation of human rights in this country. In the winter of 1989, after contacts with representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the United Nations, he amended the important parts of the last spiteful report by the human rights committee and confessed that the report was wrong.

Galindo Pohl then referred to some truths on crimes perpetrated by terrorist groups, namely the massacre of defenseless people by the monafeqin, and devoted 91 pages of his report to a list of the names of 160 innocent people who had been martyred by the terrorist monafeqin groups. Following this, Galindo Pohl asked to visit Iran to carry out more investigations on legal procedures in Iran and after a one-week visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran in Esfand 1368 [ending 20 March 1989], he submitted a detailed report on the situation of human rights in Iran. This report was the outcome of investigations by Galindo Pohl and his delegation and contained signs of his sincerity.

Because the westerners and the enemies of the Islamic revolution are never ready to give up their levers of pressure against the Islamic revolution, once this report was published great efforts were organized to eliminate the psychological and propaganda impacts that it would have on the international scene, so much so that after Galindo Pohl paid a similar visit to Tehran last autumn, he prepared a competely spiteful report to make up for his former report on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran. Galindo Pohl's second report, which was nothing but a full-fledged venomous attack on the Islamic revolution, clearly showed that he was never an independent legal element, but a political agent.

It should actually be noted that Galindo Pohl's second report was more in proportion with what is expected of him to do as a political figure in a forum which is known as the International Human Rights Organization.

Galindo Pohl's third visit to Tehran should also be judged with the same pessimism that stems from his second spiteful mission. The system of the Islamic Republic of Iran should not trust and pay any attention to such political missions which lack the least bit of realism and sincerity. The people and the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran only rely on the unalterable principles for which the revolution took place. The legitimacy of such a system has never depended on confirmations of convenience by others, especially when it is a long time now that terms such as "human rights" have lost their luster and true meaning for the people of Iran.

Majles' Bayat Explains Constitution Article 99

NC1412100691 Tehran ABRAR (INTERNATIONAL SUPPLEMENT) in English 5 Dec 91 p 12

[Text] Tehran—Majles Vice-Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Assadollah Bayat has stressed that interpretations given by the Council of Guardians are legal, but are not laws in themselves. He said, "Since the government derives its legitimacy from the Majles it cannot act upon the interpretation of the Council about Article 99 of the Islamic Republic Constitution."

Article 99 of the Constitution says: "The Council of Guardians has the responsibility of supervising the elections of the Assembly of Experts, the Leadership, the president of the republic, the Islamic Consultative Assembly (Majles), and the direct recourse to popular opinion and referenda." Bayat said on the basis of law, the government must act upon the decisions of the Majles, not interpretations of the Council of Guardians. He said that would only be possible if the Leader of the Islamic Republic Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i approved it. Speaking in a question and answer session with Tehran University students, Bayat stressed that it is the duty of everyone to respect the sanctity of the Council of Guardians, like all other revolutionary organs. He added: "Because the elections for the fourth term of the Majles are near and the need for the people to choose their candidates correctly, it is necessary to debate the interpretation of the Council of Guardians to clarify the public mind." The fourth Majles elections are due to be held next April. The Majles vice-speaker said the duty of the Council of Guardians is to supervise and control elections. He added, "The law specifies the rights of the candidates, the Interior Ministry and the Council of Guardians. But if the Interior Ministry would be forced to act upon anything that the Council says, then in fact the ministry would have no real power." Stressing that the Council of Guardians can interpret law, he said, "We believe there are ambiguities in the interpretation of Article 99 of the Constitution. In order to clarify these ambiguities it is appropriate that the respected members of the Council of Guardians should take part in a debate with representatives of the Islamic Consultative Assembly." Bayat raised the question as to why such an interpretation did not take place during the past three Majles elections and this issue is being brought up at this particular time. However he said dialogue is a logical and desirable thing and said the Majles is ready to debate with members of the Council of Guardians to eliminate existing ambiguities. Stressing that it is the masses which have brought into being the Islamic system in Iran and should be involved in various issues. Bayat rejected any political motives in pursuing the Article 99 issue and said it is being done only to clear up the minds of the public. Saying that the law explicitly states that if the Executive Body of the Interior Ministry rejects the qualification of any candidate, the latter can complain to the Council of Guardians, Bayat asked: "If the ability of candidates is to be approved solely by the Council of Guardians, and if possibly this ability is rejected, where can this person take his complaint to?" Stressing that "we are not opposed to interpretations of the Council of Guardians and never ask legal questions from this revolutionary organ", Bayat said, "As the (late Leader of the Islamic Revolution and Founder of the Islamic Republic) Imam Khomeyni had recommended, the people should be involved in issues and in order to justify and make them understand, debate about interpretation of Article 99 of the Constitution is necessary." The Majles vice-speaker said that the division between the Majles and the Council of Guardians about interpretation of Article 99 of the Constitution has been informed to the Leader, Ayatollah Khamene'i. However he said so far no discussion between the two groups has taken place in the leader's presence and so far he has not stated any clear viewpoint about the matter. Bayat expressed hope once again that members of the Council of Guardians would take part in a debate with Majles delegates and put an end to the current differences. According to THE ABRAR reporter, the question and answer session with Bayat was arranged by the Islamic Association of Students of Tehran University and Tehran Medical Sciences University. Members of the Council of Guardians as well as Majles MP from Abadan, Mr. Rashidian, had also been invited to attend the session, but they did not attend it. Further according to the report, in this session it was announced by one of the members of the Islamic Association of Students of Tehran University and the Tehran Medical Sciences University that the viewpoint of the association about interpretation of article 99 of the Constitution will be announced very soon.

Musavi-Ardebili Leads Friday Prayers

LD1312170391 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1130 GMT 13 Dec 91

[Second Friday prayers sermon by Ayatollah Musavi-Ardebili in Tehran on 13 December—recorded]

[Excerpts] First, I want to talk about the week's very great and joyous and unexpected event—the victory which rang in the world. That was the comprehensive UN declaration about Saddam being the aggressor and

responsibe for the imposed war. Since the victory of the revolution very few incidents have gladdened me as much. [passage omitted]

We hope that the will work continue with the same perseverance, with the same courage, until the complete implementation of the resolution. The important point, the difficult part of the task, is this very same issue. Let them finish what they have started.

However, in the end, one feels sorry. If the United Nations does not say this, it thinks that there is something that it needed to say but did not. An issue as clear as this, as open as this was delayed by 10 years. Let us forget the 10 year delay, what about the damage done to the world because of this delay? How can this damage be rectified? If there had not been a delay of 10 years, would Iraq have invaded Kuwait? Would America come to the Persian Gulf? Would Saudi Arabia be burdened by that back-breaking debt? These damages, these immense damages, what were they for?

So they do not say: Revolutionary Iran is right because it is firm on its righteous stance. They prevented this taking place in order to give weight to their own words. Damage was inflicted upon us, that is true, but the world was also damaged to the same extent. The world suffered more than we did. [passage omitted]

The second issue: This issue was, at least, as pleasing as the first issue. It is this Islamic Organization Conference. The esteemed president of our country participated in that conference. Perhaps more than half the Muslims were represented at the prime ministerial or head of state level. This was a one hundred percent confrontation of the world-devouring, great Satan—America.

This conference's result was essentially one hundred percent in the favor of Muslims and to the benefit of Iran, to the benefit of Palestine, to the detriment of the world arrogance, specifically, to the detriment of America and Israel.

In a world where the world of Islam has been so troubled—there is the Somalian issue, the Horn of Africa issue, the killing of the Muslims, the Kashmir issue, the Afghanistan issue, the Lebanese issue, the Iraqi issue, the Persian Gulf issue, the Palestine issue and issues in other countries. I used to think that there is no place in the world where Muslims live where they have not had problems.

They say that since the Eastern bloc has disintegrated and the Soviet Union has turned into a fable—they fell apart—America is maneuvering in the world as an undisputed contender. They say the only places, the only things that can lift their heads are the Islamic states. Therefore sometimes they want to create an Arab-Israeli alliance against Iran; sometimes they want to fashion the crusades into various forms of the day. Now they are busy, trying to stifle our breath, to make us lose face, to alter our status. But the conference—with the President's extremely beautiful speech—and the extremely fine resolution which was almost unanimously adopted there, is another one of the greatest successes and God's great blessings.

I consider it imperative, I feel duty bound, I feel bound by religious duty, to declare to the world from this holy place that the Iranian nation, unified, supports and confirms the conference resolution, et all, especially the parts that confront America and are to the detriment of Israel and the benefit of Palestine. [passage omitted]

The second issue is that we follow the Palestinians, their spiritual leaders, their figureheads, and our own officials, and condemn negotiations held between some Arabs and Israel, under the supervision of America, to solve the problem of Palestine. We believe that the problem of Palestine is not going to be solved through negotiations.

There is only one solution. That is military action by all Muslims. We believe those negotiations will mean nothing but shame and degradation for Arabs.

Once again, we urge world Muslims, those one billion, one billion, each an individual Seyyed Jamaleddin Asadabadi, who goes to England, who goes to Egypt to speak against England, in India he begins his speech by saying this sentence: O you damned Indians. [preceding sentence in Arabic] If you were mosquitoes, and you were to attack the island of Britain; with such a large population, you would have only deafened Britian with your noise. If you were ants and you wanted to take away the soil of the Arabian island, you would have drowned it in the sea. What has happened to you all, that you have become such captives of a few lame officers, being taken here and there just like a herd?

I do not dare be so bold toward world Muslims. That was Seyyed Jamaleddin. He was addressing Indians and their struggle against the British. I do not want to be rude. But I should say: O Muslims; O you one billion Muslims, what has happened to your Islamic zeal? What has happened to your Islamic courage? America comes from the other end of the world, orders us around, and that should please us? Some say it seems like America has spoken gently. It seems like it was angry today. What do you think this is?

If one billion Muslims rise up...what is there that they have not committed in Palestine? What aggression is there that they have not perpetrated there? We call upon all world Muslims, everybody, even those who have recently been freed from captivity, even those living in Muslim inhabited republics of the Soviet Union, Muslims of Africa, Asia, and Europe, to not miss the one who wakes up without paying attention to the affairs of Muslims.

Such a golden opportunity. Now that such a thing has happened to the Soviet Union, Europe is beating the unity drum and they intend to create problems for America, and that provides a golden opportunity. If you do not miss such a golden opportunity and attend to

those trampled rights, then there is much hope that you may benefit from God's benediction and his kindness and he may assist you to attain victory throughout the world. God willing.

May God's peace be upon you.

Islamic World Needs To Attain 'Unity of Views'

NC1412203891 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 9 Dec 91 pp 1,2

[Editorial: "The Dakar Conference and the Hopes of the Islamic World"]

[Text] The sixth session of the heads of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] is to convene in the Senegalese capital Dakar and to the major problems of the Islamic world at this sensitive juncture in contemporary history.

The rapid pace of events in today's changing world have overshadowed the world's equations of power in many aspects. Because of its special geographic, political, and economic situation the Islamic world is located precisely in the major centers where the world's fate is being determined. The existence of rich oil and raw material resources, immense manpower, as well as the existence of strategic territories and determining routes and so on are all the effective elements in the hands of the world's Muslims as far as the formation of a system that is needed by the contemporary world is concerned.

Having one-fifth of the world's population on their territories and thanks to their exceptional situation, the Muslims should naturally be able to ensure a good place for themselves in the future order of the world. Today with the downfall of the Eastern empire and the disintegration of the infidel and atheistic system that ruled the East bloc, attention has definitely turned to Islam and Islamic world. Even though arrogance is trying to infiltrate the world of Islam from another aspect and alter the process of world events largely to its benefit, nevertheless it is the Muslims of the world and their governments that can understand the sensitivity of the present juncture and play their determining role.

The expectation is that under such circumstances the sixth ICO summit will be able to turn into a strong point for the Islamic. The Islamic world has all the necessary tools to regain the lost grandeur of the Muslims. The main point, however, is to prevent the pro-foreign infiltrators from carrying out their wretched mission of creating a rift among the ranks of the Muslims and wasting the potential of the Islamic world.

Today the Islamic world—with all the potentials, capital, and manpower that it has at its disposal—is still facing the most elementary of problems which are directly linked with the continuation of the Muslims' grandeur. A large part of Islamic territory in the heart of the Islamic world's oil-rich area is still under the occupation of foreigners and the enemies of Islam. But instead of thinking of how to save Palestine and to oust the occupiers, some Islamic countries have rushed to the aid of the aggressor and have—by adopting a despicable stance—helped in keeping the first kiblah of the Muslims under the occupation of Zionists and racists.

The Dakar conference is a good opportunity for a realistic evaluation of events of the past few decades in the entire world and especially in the Islamic world. During the past few decades, the Islamic world has been one of the major centers for overt and covert activities by world arrogance. A large part of the strength that arrogance has gained has been and is from the plundering of the wealths of the Islamic world. This is at a time when the Islamic world is still facing its major problems on a daily basis. This unending struggle is wasting the efforts by the Islamic world more and more each day.

It will be naivete to think that after many decades the Islamic countries are still unable to tell their friends from their foes. Even if we do not look back in history we can still clearly determine today who the friends and foes of the Islamic world are.

The bitter experience of the past several decades is sufficient to help us assess and decide on the present and future of the Islamic world. We, the Muslims of the world, should be able to learn a lesson from all the bitter experiences that we have had so we can chose our future as we want and remove the obstacles that confront us with patience and perseverence. Today is the day to make a decision on all these.

Why should the Islamic world, which has one-fifth of the world's population, not play a suitable role in decisions on the contemporary world? Why is our part and our role being intentionally ignored in the system that rules the world? Why should the Islamic world not play a part in key decisions on the future of the world and on a world order which is fit for the future world?

These are questions that the Muslims and the heads of Islamic countries should ask themselves. These are questions to which we should find clear answers. The general policy of the Islamic world should be regulated in such a way so that its respect and role will automatically be accepted by others. We should not act as a disintegrated group which has turned into prey for international plunderers and become a large group which does not show the least bit of determination on decisions.

The world is moving toward a unity of opinion. The enemies of Islam have unity of views on their stances. There is no reason why the Islamic world should not be able to achieve unity of views and action on its clear stances. If the Dakar conference is able to declare this vital point as the essence of its outcome and choses to find a way to achieve this end, it will have attained the largest outcome that is expected of it—an outcome under the aegis of which other problems faced by the Islamic world will be solved one after the other. God willing.

Intifadah Will Shape Palestine's 'Destiny'

NC1412165091 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 7 Dec 91 pp 1, 2

[Editorial: "Intifadah Will Decide Palestine's Destiny, Not Washington Talks"]

[Excerpts] In the Name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. As expected, Arab-Israeli talks did not take place as scheduled on Wednesday 4 December because the Zionist delegation was absent from Washington and, apparently, the Arabs are preparing to accept the date specified by the Zionists, a day after the anniversary of the Palestinian Islamic uprising. [passage omitted]

Accepting such a date is tantamount to blatant Arab disgrace for those who have shed blood since 4 December 1987 to bless the protracted struggle of the tyrannized nation of Palestine against the despotic Zionists' belligerence, plunder, and aggression.

Without doubt, if world Zionism is witnessing unconditional Arab surrender to the criminal Israeli regime's avarice today, tomorrow it will not be too farfetched if, at conference, the Arab delegations are persuaded by the Zionists to condemn the pride-inspiring 43-year-long struggle of the oppressed and unsheltered Palestinian nation. [passage omitted]

Unfortunately, one cannot have any hopes of the governments ruling Islamic countries today safeguarding Islam's honor and greatness. Today, contrary to past decades, the Arab governments' problem is not how to combat the Zionist usurpers but how to retain their crowns and thrones and compromise with the despotic Israeli Government in the region. But this only represents rulers' mentality, not nations', which is very different from that of the Arab governments.

In the current political situation, those who prefer no other means but holy war or a wrathful struggle against the despots of holy Jerusalem know full well, after years of hardship and tribulation, that the bloodthirsty Tel Aviv government does not believe in the Palestinian Muslims' rights and does not even concede their right to exist on their ancestral lands. [passage omitted]

The Islamic intifadah, on the threshold of its fifth year, is an Islamic and popular movement which continues to pursue its objective on the occupied territories. It is the purest and noblest Islamic and popular movement, initiated by sincere, selfless, and honorable young Palestinian men since the occupation of Palestine and holy Jerusalem. It has continued in such a manner that not one Arab government or organization, professing to champion Palestine's liberation, could become its guardian.

The flames of such a movement, its roots in the faith, hopes, and beliefs of the oppressed and tyrannized people of Palestine, will never be doused. Ultimately, the same intifadah will have the last word.

Palestine's destiny will be forged by the intifadah, not by obsequious Arab governments' talks with Zionists in Washington.

Efforts To Repeal Zionism Resolution Assessed

LD1512182191 Tehran IRNA in English 1755 GMT 15 Dec 91

[Text] Athens, Dec. 15, IRNA—The United Nations General Assembly is expected to vote Monday on an American proposal to quash U.N. Resolution 3379 [number as received] passed in 1975 that equates Zionism with racialism.

U.S. President George Bush addressing the General Assembly on 23 September had announced that Washington will call for the annulment of the resolution on Zionism.

Following the announcement, the U.S. launched one of its biggest propaganda campaigns to whitewash the darkened visage of Israel.

When the resolution describing Zionism as a form of racism was passed on 10 November 1975, 35 U.N. members voted against it, 32 abstained from voting and 75 states voted in favour.

But today's international scene is very different from that of 1975. The U.S. now has the support of all West European countries, the former communist Eastern Europe states, the independent Baltic republics of the Soviet Union and some African states.

According to Egyptian newspaper AL-WAFD, Cairo's position on the the resolution would be very vital for the outcome of the voting.

Egypt is the only Arab country to have signed a U.S.-brokered treaty with the Zionist entity.

However, the Arab group in the U.N., consisting of 21 states, has announced its rejection of the American proposal to cancel Resolution 3379.

Muslim states and some other developing countries are also expected to vote against the U.S.-Israeli proposal.

The question arising in everybody's mind is why the U.S. is so eager to get the Zionism resolution cancelled? And why now when the so-called Middle East peace process is in full swing?

First and foremost, the U.S.' active and eager support to cancel the resolution is a further proof of its deep commitment to safeguard Israeli interests in the region.

It is unprecedented in the history of United Nations that a resolution has been cancelled.

Secondly, the U.S. and Israel have put the Arabs in a big dilemma.

According to observers if the Arabs reject the proposal, Washington and Tel Aviv will accuse them of not being serious in their intentions of living in peace with the Zionist state.

The head of the Zionist Regime Yitzhaq Shamir, speaking at the Madrid Mideast conference in October, called on the Arabs to support the U.S. proposal to cancel the resolution.

Arabs now are facing a big problem. How to preserve the resolution and not disturb the talks with the Zionist state?

The voting of the American proposal comes at a time when the Saudi diplomat Samir al-Shahabi will hold the presidency of the General Assembly and a few weeks after the election of Egyptian Butrus Ghali as the new U.N. secretary general.

Thirdly, President Bush is interested in securing U.S.-Jewish support for his re-election in the White House next year.

If the U.S.-Israeli proposal is passed by the General Assembly, it would be another victory for U.S. imperialism and Zionism to impose their terms of the "new world order" on the Muslim Middle East.

'Immature Thinking' of U.S. 'Propaganda' Viewed

NC1412220591 Tehran ABRAR in Persian
7 Dec 91 p 2

[Unattributed commentary: "Immature Thinking"]

[Text] With the termination of the dossier on hostage-taking in Lebanon, the Muslim Lebanese forces are awaiting the implementation of reciprocal measures with regard to the release of their oppressed prisoners in Israel and the European countries. However evidence indicates the absence of any goodwill on the part of the West.

By creating a hue and cry of propaganda, Washington has projected itself as the custodian of the restoration of human rights. However by having lost its pretext of the hostages, Washington has initiated new and dastardly efforts to depict Iran's humanitarian motives and endeavors for the release of hostages as ploys for improving relations with the West and for gaining access to its markets for the purposes of the reconstruction of its industrial infrastructure.

The fundamental problem in the diplomatic conduct of the U.S. and its European cohorts is quite apparent and is a "merging of humanitarian issues with political motives." The West's analyses are so alloyed with material concerns within the framework of its capitalistic thinking that its powers of observation are not at all humane and it has lost its ability to segregate political motives from humanitarian ones. The Western governments of the world also use the same criteria in their analyses and make the same "egocentric speculations."

If the U.S. Administration is seeking grist for its propaganda mills to imbue a dynamism in furthering its aggressive diplomacy and needs falsehoods to disseminate such as: the Islamic revolution has come to its senses, or the Iranian officials have relinquinshed their principles, leanings, and realistic attitude or regarding Iran's eagerness for forging relations with the West even if it has to renege on its principles—it is an effort in futility.

After a lapse of nearly 13 years of the Islamic revolution's existence, it would be appropriate if the U.S. were to take a serious second look at their analyses with regard to the attitudes of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The idea that in the face of such "propaganda," Islamic Iran would be prepared to follow such erroneous U.S. policies, indicates immature thinking on the part of the U.S.

'Dastardly' FRG Statement on Nuclear Arms Cited

NC1512055991 Tehran ABRAR in Persian
5 Dec 91 p 2

[Unattributed commentary: "The Diplomacy of Truth"]

[Text] The German Government has attempted in its latest stance to project in a most dastardly manner to world opinion that Iran is eager to manufacture nuclear weapons.

The chief of the German intelligence bureau (Konrad Prezens) said at a press conference yesterday: "If Iran continues its current military activity it will attain the capability of making its own nuclear reactor by the year 2000."

Apart from this intentional narrowmindedness, the German Government has left the Bushehr nuclear power plant unfinished, which indicates the hidden motives and immature stance behind this action. If the Bonn government thinks that by such means it can conceal its intentions regarding Iran and by its obstructionist attitude on past commitments and by creating psychological obstacles for the Islamic Republic of Iran it can lure it toward submitting to the new world order, it is strongly mistaken.

All the above utterances are extremely irresponsible and are being made when simultaneous to the press interview of the chief of the German intelligence bureau, the German Foreign Minister "Hans-Dietrich Genscher" generously bestows a human rights award to the Iranian foreign minister in gratitude for Iran's humanitarian efforts and its exerting of its influence for the release of the hostages in Lebanon!

We expect the German echelons to completely review their relations with Iran and to eliminate and amend all hidden contradictions in its diplomacy with Iran.

The German Government can only achieve a wholesome relationship with Iran when it follows a "diplomacy of truth" in its political conduct toward Iran, otherwise, the future prospect of ties with Iran will remain swathed in a mist of ambiguity.